

# **The Salonika Campaign – A Postal History 1915 - 1918**

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## **Part I**

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Building on the earlier publications of John Firebrace, Ted Proud and Alistair Kennedy and George Crabb this study seeks to illustrate mail from this campaign and introducing further research.

Earlier works concentrated on listing the various Field Post Offices and Stationary Army Post Offices which were opened and closed throughout this campaign. Locations throughout this time were researched and detailed in their publications.

Part I of this study covers stamped mails, Registered, Parcel Mails and other paid mails which were dispatched.

Incoming mails are also shown including Casualty mails .

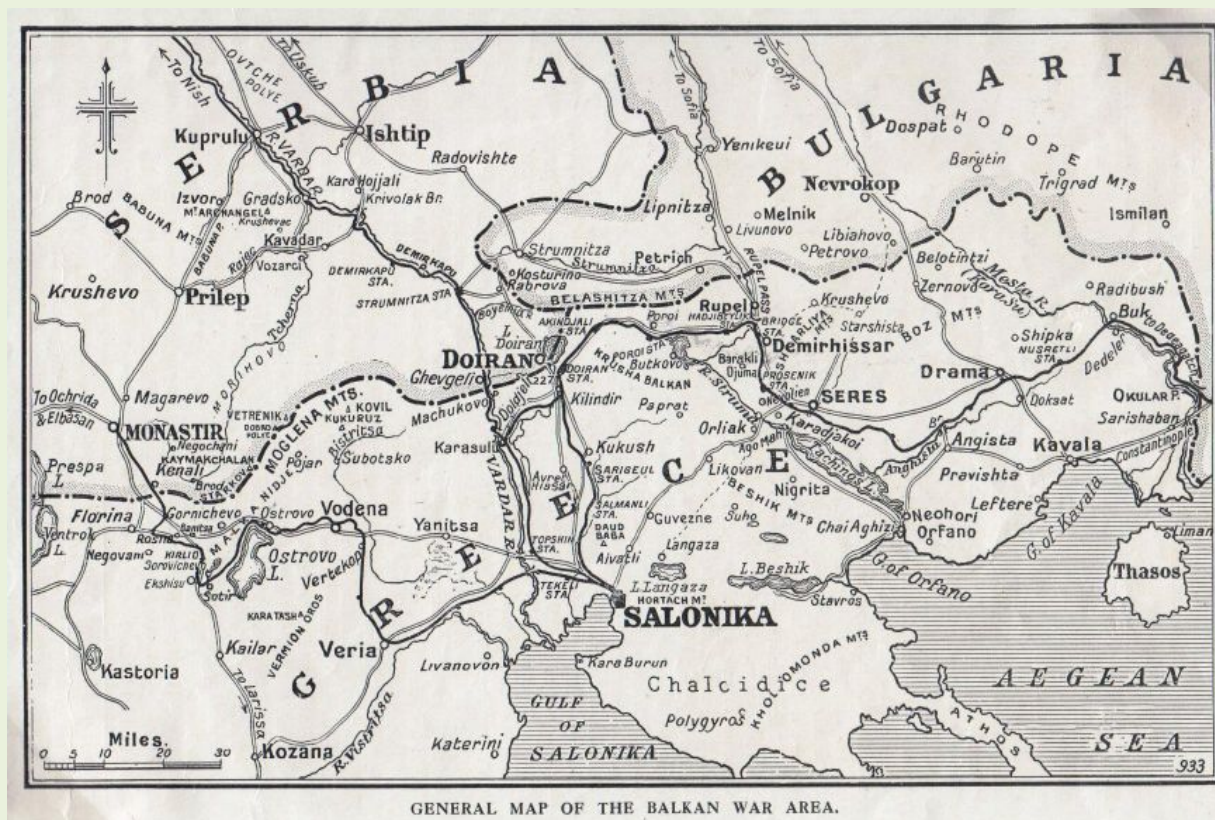
# **The Salonika Campaign**

## **Part I**

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## The Salonika Campaign



Map taken from THE TIMES HISTORY OF THE WAR



View card Endorsed "Temporary Camp on Landing (Nov 1915)"

## **The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail**

**4<sup>th</sup> October 1915 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1918**

### **Introduction**

Britain's involvement in the Salonika Campaign commenced in early October 1915 when the 10<sup>th</sup> Irish Division was transferred from the Dardanelles to support the Serbians against the Bulgarians and Germany. Serbia had a Defence Treaty with Greece in the event of a Bulgarian attack and the Greek Government under Venizelos requested Allied Aid. The 10<sup>th</sup> Division occupied a line 20 miles North West of the Doiran in Bulgaria, starting the move to Serbia in late October. The New Greek Government under Skouladis decided to remain neutral and following Allied pressure agreed to withdraw Greek troops from Salonika and allow Allied occupation of the area. The 10<sup>th</sup> Division and French troops withdrew under a heavy Bulgarian attack across the Frontier on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1915. The Bulgarians respected the Greek Frontier and did not follow the allied troops. The British therefore withdrew to the Salonika area and formed an entrenched camp around Salonika (The Birdcage) In November / December 1915 four further British Divisions arrived, 22<sup>nd</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>

In May 1916 the Bulgarians crossed the Frontier and occupied Eastern Macedonia.

A separate Greek Government under Venizelos was established in Salonika, one of whose aims was to drive the Bulgarians out of Greece.

In December 1916 the 60<sup>th</sup> Division arrived, staying until late June 1917 when transferred to Egypt. The 10<sup>th</sup> Division also left in September 1917.

There was little movement of the Front Line until the major offensive in September 1918; this was followed by the collapse of the Bulgarians and an Armistice on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 1918.

Throughout this time Field and Stationary Army Post Offices were in operation as well as a Base Army Post Office.

In May 1917 there were 49 Offices open rising to a peak of 54 in November 1918 excluding the Base Post Office.

Following heavy shipping losses it was decided in the autumn of 1917 to open an Overland Route via Taranto in Italy through Italy and France to Cherbourg.

All Field and Stationary Army Post Offices were equipped with Stamps and Registration Labels and in theory Registered Mail should exist from all the offices opened.

Postage was Free on Active Service to Britain, The Empire and the Western Front.

Registration Fee was 2d paid for by stamps or use of the 2d Black Forces Postal Stationary Envelope which were on sale at 2 ½d

Postage had to be paid for all mail to the United States of America & Foreign countries at the relevant rates.

**The following sheets show mail from a range of Offices, Shipping and Route Details are shown where known.**

*Ref War Diary of the D.D.P.S Salonika Held at Kew WO 95 / 4789*



### **The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail**

Cover to Messer's Cox & Co, 16 Charring Cross, London

Cancelled Field Post Office 83 – Code A – 18<sup>th</sup> December 1915

Received in London 29<sup>th</sup> December 1915

This FPO served 83<sup>rd</sup> Brigade 28<sup>th</sup> Division located in the Lembet Area

Brigade arrived in Salonika from Egypt during December 1915

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 399

Allocated to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment

Signed Bolton – *Not Traced*



No Shipping details recorded in the War Diary D.D.P.S. Salonika for November – December 1915

During December 1915 a major build-up of British Troops took place, with four new Divisions 22<sup>nd</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> arriving to join the 10<sup>th</sup> Division which had been in Salonika since October 1915

**With the build-up in Salonika and evacuation of the Gallipoli Peninsular very little shipping was available for mail transportation  
Mail via Mudros was also held up until the evacuation was completed**

## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Front only to Hampstead, London

Cancelled Field Post Office 84 – Code X – 19<sup>th</sup> January 1916

This FPO served 84<sup>th</sup> Brigade 28<sup>th</sup> Division located at Happy Valley Camp

17<sup>th</sup> January 1916 – 17<sup>th</sup> April 1916

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 1033

Allocated to 85<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance

Signed by Robbins? *Not Traced*

Manuscript registration details added, these details would be entered into the Way Bill which would accompany Registered Mails

**R**  
**No 63**



*Was this FPO issued with Registration etiquettes at this stage or had run out and was awaiting a fresh stock?*

*See also cover dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1916*

## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Mrs A W Anthony, 62 Waldeck Road, Cheswick, London

Cancelled Field Post Office 84 – Code X – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1916

This FPO served 84<sup>th</sup> Brigade 28<sup>th</sup> Division located at Happy Valley Camp

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 89

Allocated to 84<sup>th</sup> Brigade Headquarters

Signed by Censor - *Not Traced*

Cover shows no Registration Labels were available and **R / No. 58.** entered in manuscript

Cancelled also by the FPO Date-stamp where label would be positioned.



Back-stamps

Date received in  
London unclear



### **The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail**

Cover to Mr A E Cook, Woodbine Cottage, Nr Pershore, Worcestershire

Cancelled Field Post Office 78 – Code + - 15<sup>th</sup> February 1916

This FPO served 78<sup>th</sup> Brigade 26<sup>th</sup> Division located at Happy Valley Camp Salonika

Cover probably went via Base Army Post Office X located in Salonika but not Back-stamped

Received in London 25<sup>th</sup> February 1916

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 2226

Allocated to 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Worcestershire Regiment

Registration Label has been pre-cancelled.

**Postage was Free and 2d Registration Fee paid by use of the 2d Black Postal Stationary Envelope**



The War Diary D.D.P.S. Salonika records no shipping details for Mails Dispatched

Prior to March 1916



## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Army & Navy Comp Stores Ltd, Victoria Street, London

Cancelled Field Post Office 66 – Code + - 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1916

Back-stamped Base Army Post Office X 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1916

This FPO served 66<sup>th</sup> Brigade 22<sup>nd</sup> Division – Located at Gradabor Near Salonika

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 2067

Allocated to 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion Manchester Regiment

Signed by sender – *Not traced*

Postage was Free and Registration Fee 2d



Back-stamps

Shipping Details unknown, War Diary records 2 Ships per week carrying mails, a French Service which was limited to 5 shipping tons a voyage.

### The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

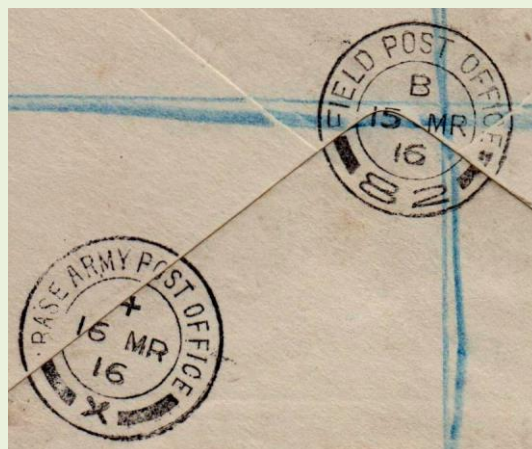
Cover to Army & Navy Stores, Co-operative Society Ltd, 105 Victoria St, Westminster,

Cancelled Field Post Office 82 – Code B – 15<sup>th</sup> March 1916

This FPO served 82<sup>nd</sup> Brigade 27<sup>th</sup> Division, located at Gradabor, Near Salonika

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 311 *Unallocated by FD*

**Signed B. B. Colbeck, Major, Royal Garrison Artillery**



*Reverse of Cover  
reduced*

17<sup>th</sup> March 1916, “SANT ANNA” departed with 40 Letter Bags & 21 Parcel Bags for  
London  
on the Marseilles and Malta service.

### **The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail**

Cover to Rev C B Longland, Radley Vicarage, Abingdon, Berks

Cancelled Field Post Office 79 – Code A – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1916

Back-stamped Base Army Post Office X 4<sup>th</sup> April, Received in London 17<sup>th</sup> April & forwarded to Abingdon the same day.

This FPO served 79<sup>th</sup> Brigade 26<sup>th</sup> Division located at Happy Valley Camp Salonika

Censored by a feint Type 3 Hand-stamp No 2232? (*See Longland correspondence*)

Allocated to 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Wiltshire Regiment

Signed by Censor – *Not traced*

**Sent by Captain A C Longland**

No Registration Labels available, Hand drawn details entered for recording purposes.

**R**  
**35**



5<sup>th</sup> April 1916, 91 Letter Bags & 42 Parcel Bags dispatched on “**AUSTRALIAN**” to London via the Malta – Marseilles Service

This was the first Dispatch to Europe in April 1916



## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Mrs Hollingsworth, Brighton, Sussex

Cancelled Base Army Post Office X – Code A – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1916

Cover has originated from Field Post Office 80 – 30<sup>th</sup> March 1916 as shown by the B-stamp.  
Received in London 17<sup>th</sup> April 1916

This FPO was located at Stavros serving 80<sup>th</sup> Brigade 27<sup>th</sup> Division

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 85 Allocated to 80<sup>th</sup> Brigade Headquarters  
Signed by Censor – Not traced.

Endorsed “Registered” with crossed Blue Lines but no Registration Details shown.



*Back-stamps*

5<sup>th</sup> April 1916, 91 Letter Bags & 42 Parcel Bags dispatched on “**AUSTRALIAN**” to London  
via the Malta – Marseilles Service

Blank Registration Labels available by 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 1916 as shown by the next cover.

Firebrace (Page 272) records the supply of Printed Registration Labels to Base Army Post  
Office X as 15<sup>th</sup> July 1916

### The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Mrs J Newall, 66 Larden Rd, Acton Vale, London

Cancelled Base Army Post Office X – Code B – April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1916

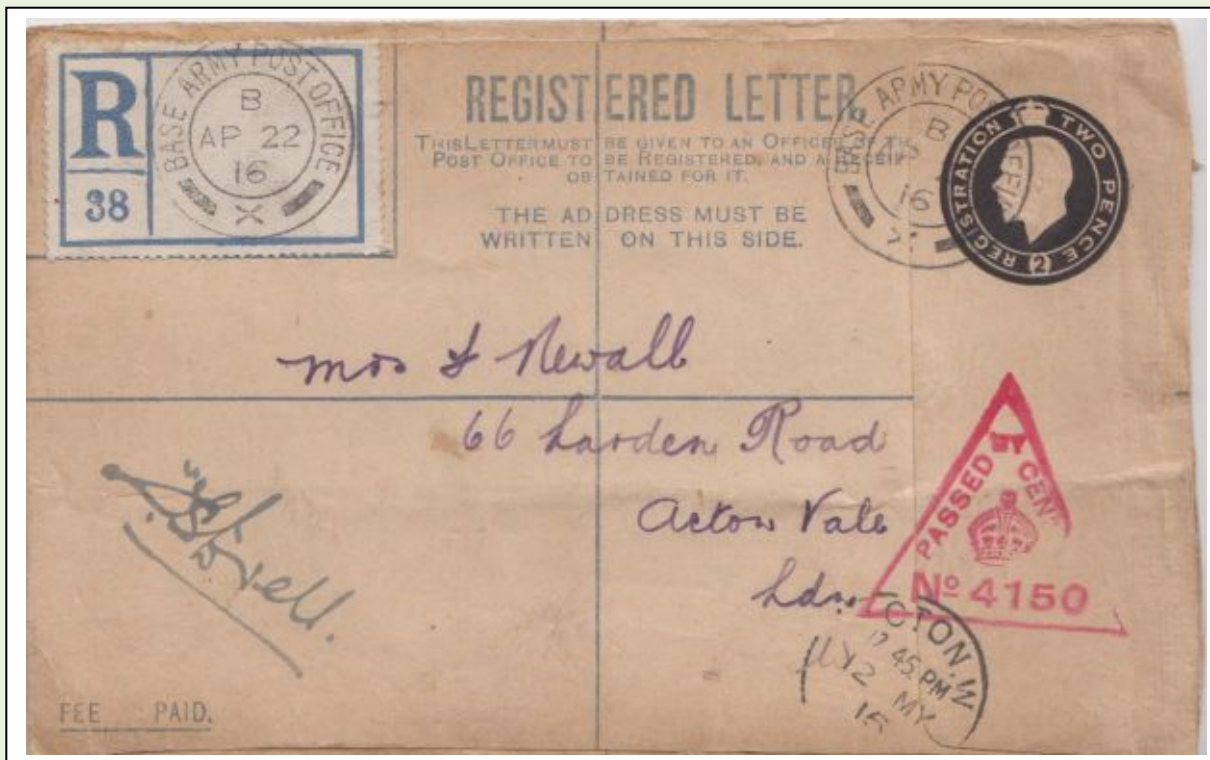
This Base APO was located at 39 Rue Franque (French Street) Salonika

Revived in London 12<sup>th</sup> May 1916 (*Back-stamp*)

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 4150 - *Unallocated by FD*

Signed by Censor (*not traced*)

*A second registered cover from the Western Front is recorded from this correspondence cancelled FPO 20 – Oct 20<sup>th</sup> 1915 with censor 3/504*



### Registration Labels

Firebrance (Page 272) records these Blank Labels in use until July.

The earliest date of the pre-printed BAPO X Registration label is recorded as 15<sup>th</sup> July 1916.

26<sup>th</sup> April, 1916 “**DOUKHALA**” departed with 85 Bags Letter mail and 35 Parcel Bags for London.

8 Letter Bags for APO 3 and 2 Letter Bags for Marseilles

### The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to The Army & Navy Stores Cooperative Society, 105 Victoria St, London

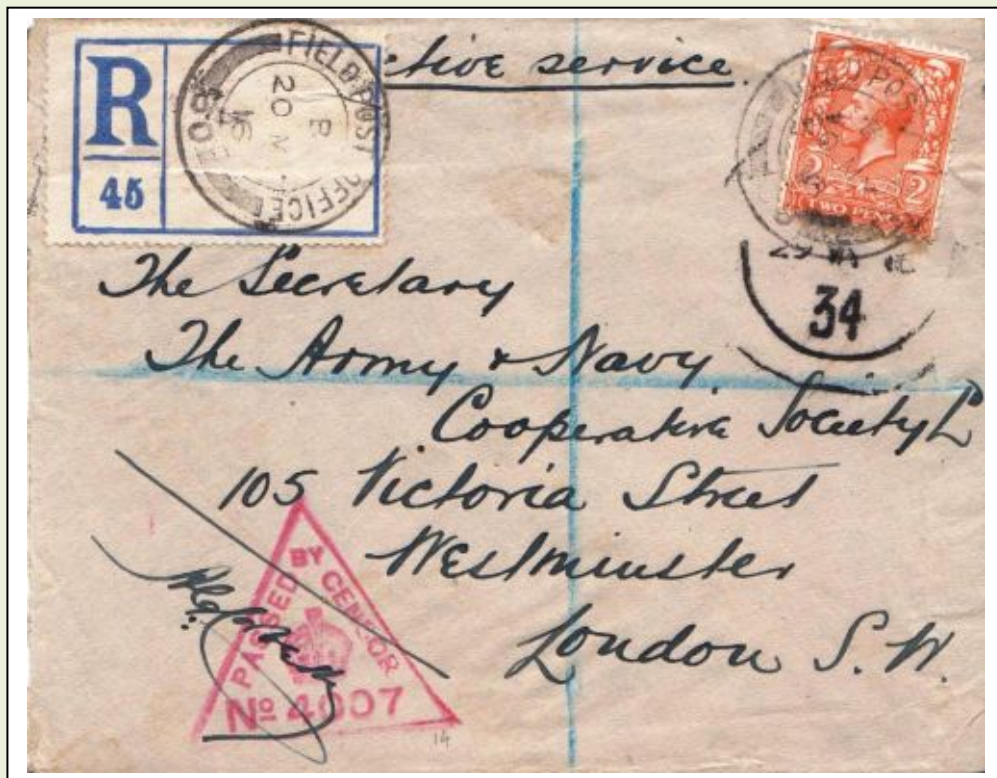
Cancelled Field Post Office 30 – Code B – 20<sup>th</sup> May 1916

This FPO served 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 10<sup>th</sup> Division located at Langavuk Nr Salonika

Via Base APO X 20<sup>th</sup> May, Arrived in London 29<sup>th</sup> May 1916

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 4007 – Allocated to 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade Headquarters

Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*



*Reverse of Cover  
reduced*

21<sup>st</sup> May 1916 40 letter Bags dispatched on “ST ANNA” for London via the Malta –  
Marseilles Service



## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Messer's Harrods Ltd, Brompton Road, London S W

Cancelled Field Post Office 79 – Code B – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1916

Back-stamped Base Army Post Office X 24<sup>th</sup> May – Received in London 6<sup>th</sup> June 1916

This FPO served 79<sup>th</sup> Brigade 26<sup>th</sup> Division Located at Happy Valley Camp Salonika

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 2232

Allocated to 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Wiltshire Regiment

Signed by sender – *Not Traced*



Back stamp

Shipping Details not clear from War Diary Copy

## **The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail**

Fragment from a package sent Registered Letter mail

Cancelled Field Post Office 82 – Code B - 17<sup>th</sup> June 1916

Unclear Type 3 Censor Hand-stamp

This FPO served 82<sup>nd</sup> Brigade located in the Stavros Area.

Paid 3 Pence – Registration Fee 2 Pence, 1<sup>st</sup> 4 oz. free and then 1 Penny for each extra oz.

If complete this equates to a 5 oz. letter.



Registration Label cancelled FPO 82 but undated.

Destination unknown

17<sup>th</sup> June, “**ERNEST SIMONS**” departed for London with 80 Letter Bags and 40 Parcel Bags plus mails for A.P.O. 3, Marseilles and Malta.

The next departure was 19<sup>th</sup> June, “**DUNMORE HEAD**” sailed with 18 Letter Bags bound for Malta.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, “**ODESSA**” sailed for London with 83 Letter Bags and 34 Parcel Bags.

Mails were also dispatched on the Alexandria – Port Said route as follows,

17<sup>th</sup> June, “**MYRMIDON**” departed with 13 Letter Bags

22<sup>nd</sup> June, “**HMT. BOURD**” departed with 27 Letter Bags including 2 Indian Bags.

### The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

OHMS Cover to The Army & Navy Stores, 105 Victoria Street, Westminster, London

Cancelled Field Post Office 81 – Code A – 14<sup>th</sup> June 1916

This FPO served 81<sup>st</sup> Brigade 27<sup>th</sup> Division. Located at Kapuzadlar Nr Salonika

Received at Base Army Post Office X 14<sup>th</sup> June and received in London 27<sup>th</sup> June 1916

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 311 *Unallocated by FD*  
Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*



Back stamps

16<sup>th</sup> June “**PRINCESS ENA**” departed for Malta via Mudros with 32 Letter Bags  
17<sup>th</sup> June “**ERNEST SIMONS**” departed for London with 60 Letter Bags & 40 Parcel Bags



## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Hall Mark Food Co, 11 Denmark Street, London

Cancelled Field Post Office 81 – Code X – 11<sup>th</sup> July 1916

Back-stamped Base Army Post Office X (Salonika) 13<sup>th</sup> July 1916

Received in London late July 1916 (Feint London Registered Cancel in Red)

This FPO served 81<sup>st</sup> Brigade 27<sup>th</sup> Division - Located at Landing Office Stavros

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 508 - Signed by Censor – *Not traced*

Allocated to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Cameron Highlanders



Back-stamps

14<sup>th</sup> July 1916, 65 Letter Bags dispatched to Malta on “**PRINCESS ENA**”

15<sup>th</sup> July 1916, 118 Letter Bags & 39 Parcel Bags dispatched on “**ODENTA**” to London via the Malta – Marseilles Service

### The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Kodak (Egypt), 30 Rue Cherif Pasha, Alexandria, Egypt

Cancelled Field Post Office 77 – Code A – 21<sup>st</sup> July 1916

This FPO served 77<sup>th</sup> Brigade 26<sup>th</sup> Division located on the Doiran Front

Received at Base APO X 21<sup>st</sup> July and Base Army Post Office Z 25<sup>th</sup> July.

It was then passed onto the Egyptian Civil Post Office for delivery on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1916

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 2944

*Unallocated by FD*

Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*



Back stamps

22<sup>nd</sup> July 1916, “CAMERONIAN” departed for Alexandria with 8 Letter Bags.

### **The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail**

Cover to Mrs R H Parsons, 33 Leighton Road, Hove, Sussex

Cancelled Field Post Office D 28 – Code A – 30<sup>th</sup> October 1916

Cover went via Base Army Post Office X on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 1916

Received in London 15<sup>th</sup> November 1916

This FPO served 28<sup>th</sup> Division Headquarters located in the Lahana Area

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 2769

Allocated to 28<sup>th</sup> Division signal Company

**Signed by sender Robert Henderson Parsons Lieutenant Royal Engineers**



31<sup>st</sup> October 1916, 113 Letter Bags dispatched on “**TUNISIAN**” for Malta

31<sup>st</sup> October 1916, 18 Letter Bags & 9 Parcel Bags dispatched on “**DOUKHALA**” for London

The first dispatch in November was the 3<sup>rd</sup> on the “**HAVRAISE**” 60 Letter Bags & 18 Parcel Bags



## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Kodak (Egypt) Alexandria, Egypt

Cancelled Field Post Office 66 – Code A – 5<sup>th</sup> November 1916

This FPO served 66<sup>th</sup> Brigade locate in the Janis area at this time

Received at Base APO X 6<sup>th</sup> November & arrived at Base APO Z 9<sup>th</sup> November 1916.

It was then passed to the Egyptian Civilian Post Office for delivery 9 XI 16

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 2083

Allocated to 100<sup>th</sup> Field Company

Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*



Back stamps

“PHESUS” departed 6<sup>th</sup> November for Alexandria with 15 Bags for Alexandria and 11 Bags for Port Said.

### The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Mr D Murchison, Chief Time Keeper, Singapore Harbour Board, Straits Settlement, Singapore

Cancelled Field Post Office 66 – Code A – 28<sup>th</sup> November 1916

This FPO served 66<sup>th</sup> Brigade 22<sup>nd</sup> Division located on the Doiran Front

Received at Base Army Post Office X 29<sup>th</sup> November & arrived at Singapore 25<sup>th</sup> December

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 2083

Allocated to 100<sup>th</sup> Field Company – Signed H M Gell

Postage was Free to this destination & Registration Fee 2d



Back stamps

“MEMNON” departed 30<sup>th</sup> November 1916 for Alexandria with 7 Letter Bags for Alexandria & 16 Letter Bags for Port Said.

Mail would have then travelled via Port Tewfik, Suez to Singapore

### The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Mr Courtney Boyle, 16 Helena Road, Southsea, Hants

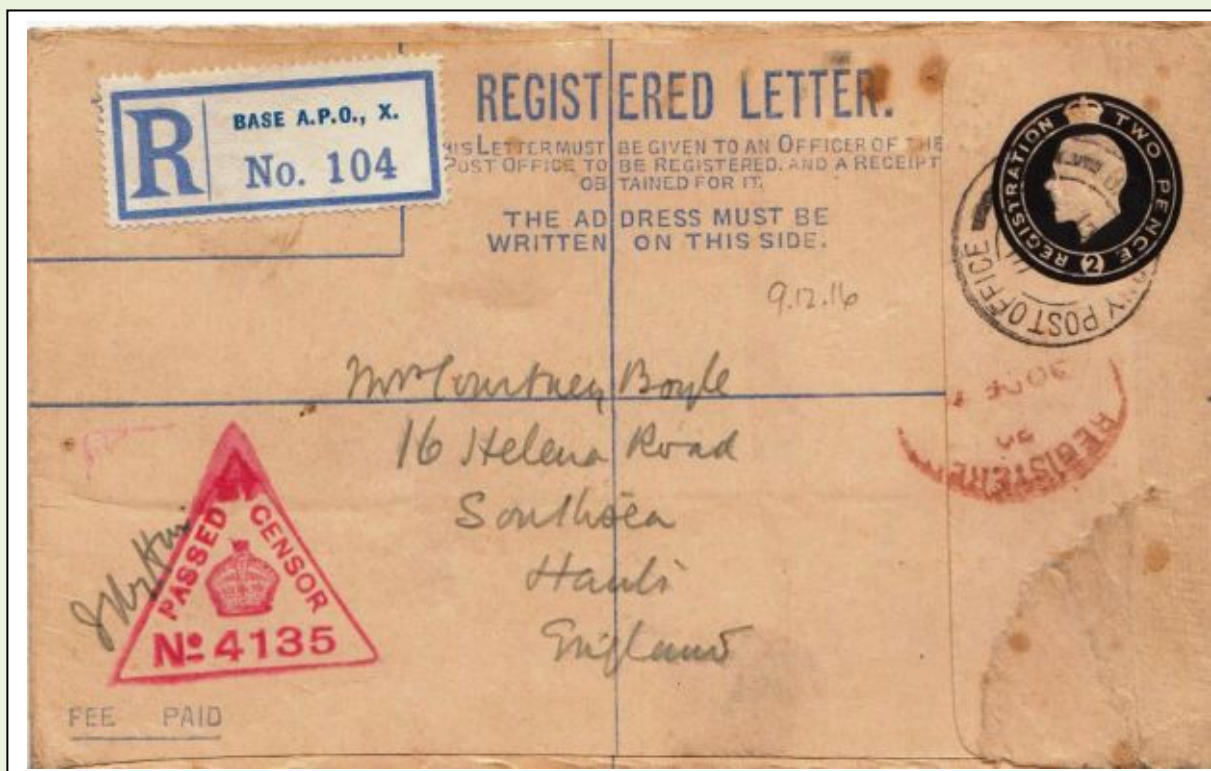
Cancelled Base Army Post Office X – Code? – 9<sup>th</sup> December 1916

Located at 39 Rue Franque (French Street)

Received in London 30<sup>th</sup> December 1916

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 4135 *Unallocated by FD*

Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*



No Back stamps

11<sup>th</sup> December 1916, “**DUC d’ AUMALE**” departed for London with 161 Letter Bags & 39 Parcel Bags.

Called at Marseilles with 2 Letter Bags & Boulogne with 11 Letter Bags.

A slow voyage of 20 days.

**Base Amy Post Office X was the only Salonika campaign office issued with Pre-printed Registration Labels during this time.**



## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Miss Mc Nelly, 42 Manse Rd, Stoke Newington, London

Cancelled Army Post Office SX 5 – Code B – 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1917

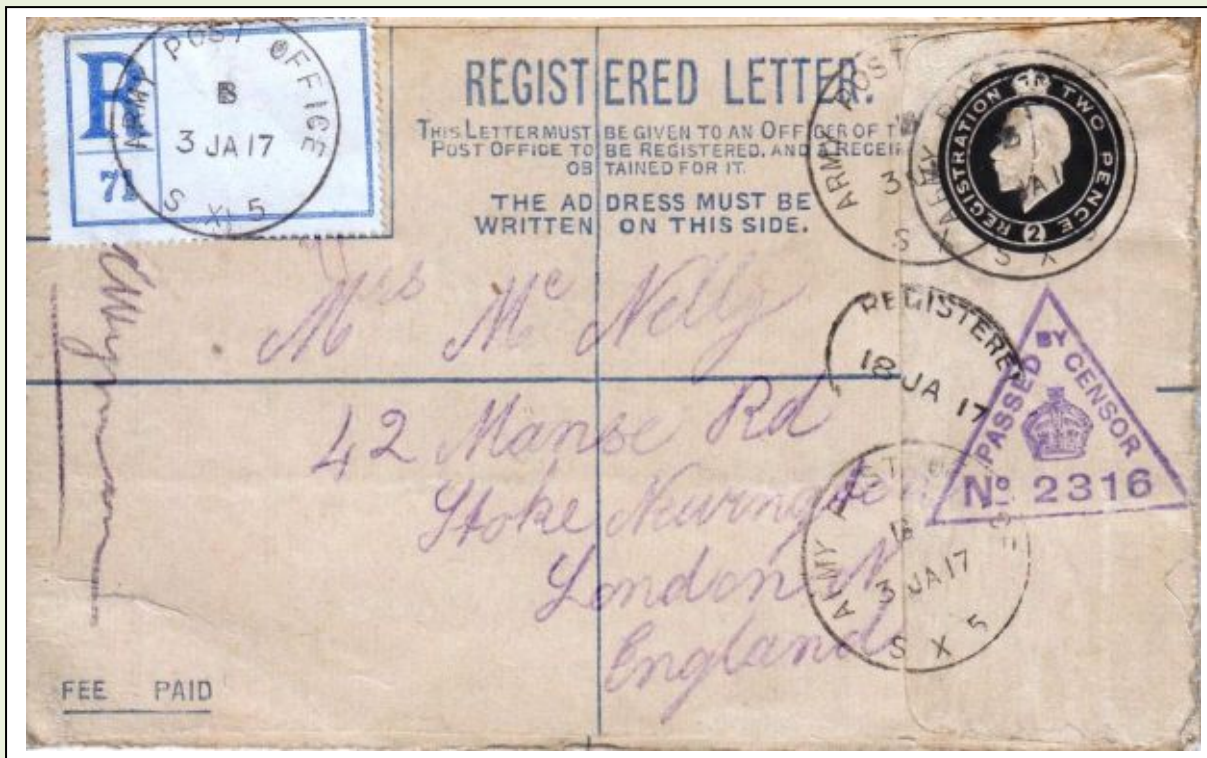
This APO was located at Likovan

Via Base APO X - Received in London 18<sup>th</sup> January 1917

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 2316 – *Unallocated by FD*

Signed by Censor (*not traced*)

*This Single Ring Skeleton Cancel was in use 3<sup>rd</sup> January – 1<sup>st</sup> February 1917*



*No Back-stamps*

4<sup>th</sup> January 1917, “**ABDA**” departed with the London Mails via Marseilles & Boulogne,  
47 Letter Bags, 9 Parcel Bags,

1 Letter Bag for Marseilles and 4 Letter Bags for Boulogne.

## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to The Anglo Egyptian Bank Ltd, Alexandria, Egypt.

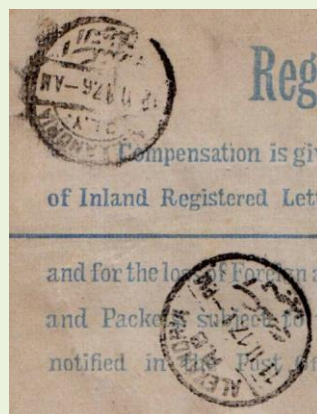
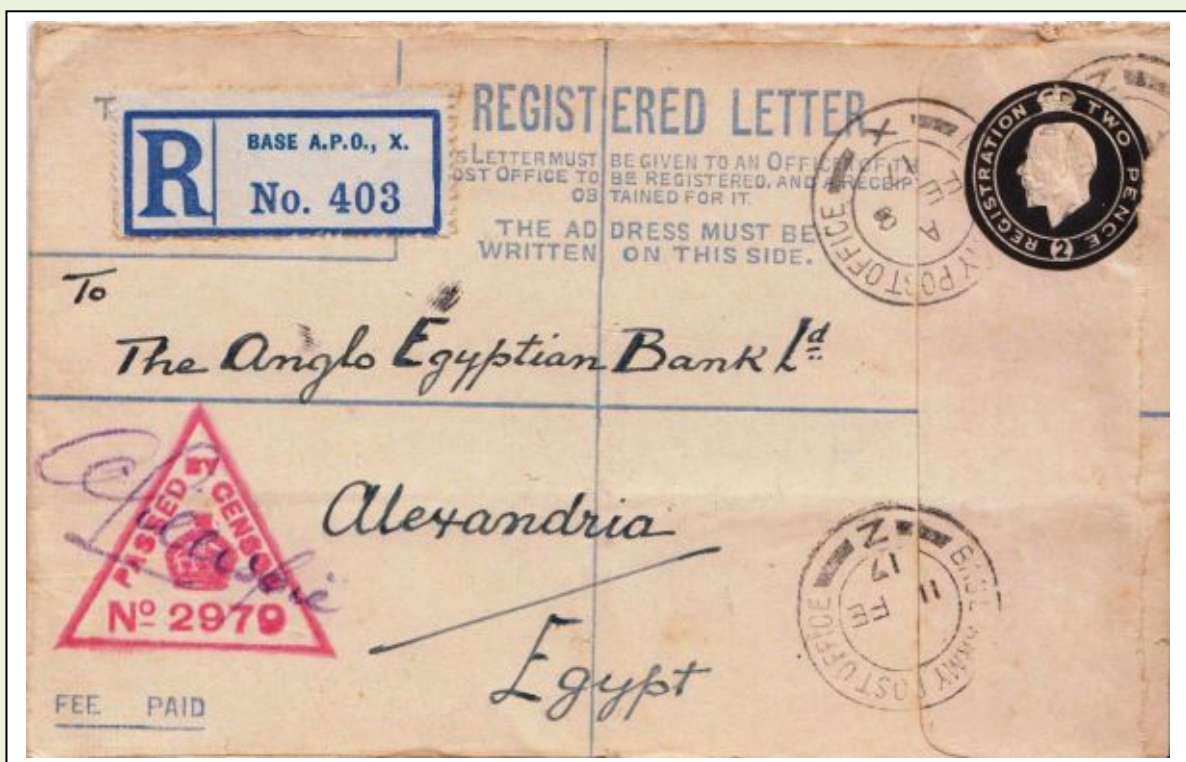
Cancelled Base Army Post Office X – Code X – February 8<sup>th</sup> 1917

Base APO was located in an old drapery warehouse at 39 Rue Franque, Salonika Town  
Remained here until the Great Fire in August 1917

Received by Base Office Z, located in Alexandria 11th February and passed to the local  
Egyptian Post Office for delivery.

Cancelled 6am & 1 pm 11<sup>th</sup> February 1917 as shown by the Back-stamps

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 2970 *Unallocated by FD*  
Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*



Back stamps

8<sup>th</sup> February 1917 “**TRANSYLVANIA**” departed for Alexandria with 16 Letter Bags

## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

OHMS Cover to Office I/C Records, 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Dublin

Cancelled Field Post Office 31 – Code A – 17<sup>th</sup> February 1917

Via Base APO X 19<sup>th</sup> February, London 12<sup>th</sup> March, James St, Dublin, 7 45 am 13<sup>th</sup> March

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 4017 - 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

*Not Signed*



*Reverse of Cover  
reduced*

20<sup>th</sup> February 1917, "**ALENTEJO**" departed with the London Mails via Marseilles & Boulogne, with 99 Letter Bags and 19 Parcel Bags



## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Mrs St A Warde-Adlam, Charborough Hall, Bournemouth

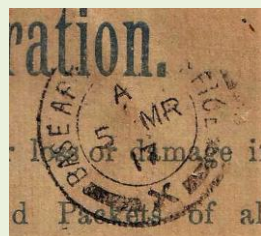
Cancelled Field Post Office 180 X – Code A – 4<sup>th</sup> March 1917

The FPO served 180<sup>th</sup> Brigade 60<sup>th</sup> Division located on the Dorian Front

Cover went via Base Army Post Office X 5<sup>th</sup> March 1917 - Received in London 26<sup>th</sup> March  
& Bournemouth 26<sup>th</sup> March 1917

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 4220 - Allocated to 2/19<sup>th</sup> London Battalion

**Signed by sender Lt Colonel St Andrew Warde-Adlam Coldstream Guards attached to  
2/20<sup>th</sup> Battalion London Regiment as Commanding Officer**



*Back-stamp*

5<sup>th</sup> March 1917, “**HIMALAYA**” departed with the London Mails via Marseilles & Boulogne, with 33 Letter Bags, 10 Parcel Bags and 1 War Office Bag.

### **The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail**

Cover to Miss Vera Nash, California, United States of America.

Cancelled Field Post Office T 22 – Code + - 12<sup>th</sup> April 1917

This FPO served 22<sup>nd</sup> Division Train (acting as railhead) located Karasuli

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 2078? Allocated to a Royal Field Artillery Unit

Received at Base APO X 14<sup>th</sup> April 1917

Censored again by Type 3 Hand-stamp No 4042 *Unallocated by FD* – Base Censor?

Two small “**OPENED by CENSOR**” Labels applied at this stage?

Received in London as shown by the London Hooded Registration Cancel over the Censor Tape on reverse on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 1917

Received in San Diego as shown by the

### **PORT OF SAN DIEGO PASSED FREE OF DUTY INSPECTER**

Three Line Hand-stamp with manuscript date 6/1/17 & Inspectors Initials

There was No Free Postage to the U.S.A; Postage was 2d & Registration Fee 2d



16<sup>th</sup> April 1917 “**CAMERONIAN**” departed with the London Mails

### The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Mrs R Davies, No 3 Model Cottages, Penyard, Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales

Cancelled Field Post Office T 22 – Code + - 13<sup>th</sup> April 1917

This FPO served 22<sup>nd</sup> Division Train (acting as railhead) located Karasuli

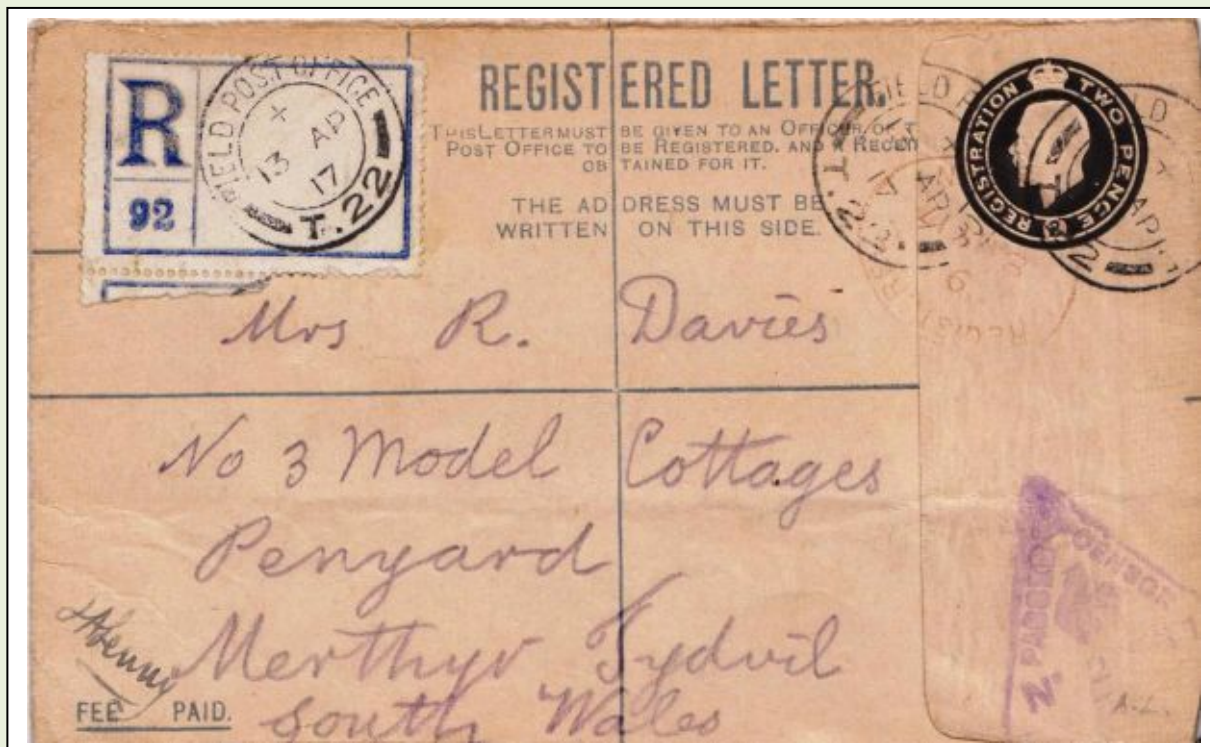
(September 1916 – 1<sup>st</sup> June 1917)

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 2061 Allocated to 9<sup>th</sup> Battn East Lancashire Fusiliers

Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*

Received in London 8<sup>th</sup> May 1917

Endorsed on reverse “Private D J Davies 14716 D Company 9<sup>th</sup> Battn East Lanes”



No Back stamps

16<sup>th</sup> April 1917 “CAMERONIAN” departed with the London Mails via Marseilles & Boulogne, 180 Letter Bags, 82 Parcel Bags and 1 War Office Bag

15<sup>th</sup> April 1917 “JUTLAND” departed with 24 letter Bags for Malta

8<sup>th</sup> April 1917 “SON TAY” departed with for London, 160 Letter Bags, 41 Parcel Bags,

“SON TAY” Recorded Torpedoed 19<sup>th</sup> April with Loss of Mails for UK

(Ref War Diary D.D.P.S Salonika)



### **The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail**

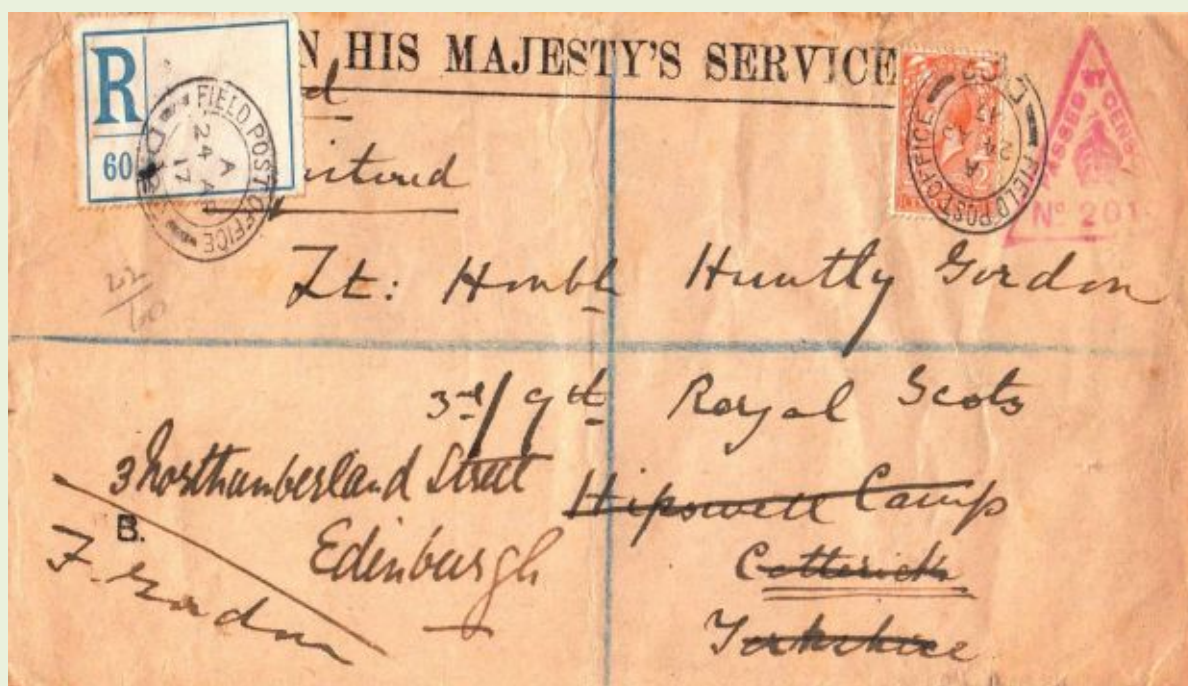
OHMS Cover to Lt Huntley Gordon, 3<sup>rd</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots, Hipswell Camp,  
Catterick, Yorkshire, re-directed to Edinburgh.

Cancelled Field Post Office D 22 - 24<sup>th</sup> April 1917

This FPO served 22<sup>nd</sup> Division Head Quarters Located on the Doiran Front

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp

No 2016 – Allocated to 22<sup>nd</sup> Division HQ



*Illustration Reduced*

**Signed by Sender Major General F Gordon Commander 22<sup>nd</sup> Division**

*Back-stamped*

Base APO X 25<sup>th</sup> April - Received in London 12<sup>th</sup> May

26<sup>th</sup> April 1917, “**ODESSA**” departed with the London Mails via Marseilles & Boulogne,

67 Letter Bags & 18 Parcel Bags.

*This cover illustrates the scarcity of Registered mail, in a run of some sixty covers from this correspondence this is the only example of registered mail.*

*One other complete correspondence which I have comprising one hundred plus covers has no registered mail present.*

### **The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail**

Cover to Mr St A Warde-Adlam, Charborough Hall, Bournemouth

Cancelled Field Post Office 179 – Code X – 14<sup>th</sup> May 1917

The FPO served 179<sup>th</sup> Brigade 60<sup>th</sup> Division located on the Dorian Front

Received in London 6<sup>th</sup> June & Bournemouth 6<sup>th</sup> June 1917

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 4220 - Allocated to 2/19<sup>th</sup> London Battalion

**Signed by sender Lt Colonel St Andrew Warde-Adlam Coldstream Guards attached to 2/20<sup>th</sup> Battalion London Regiment as Commanding Officer**



No Back-stamps

**60<sup>th</sup> London Division arrived in Salonika from the Western Front December 1916 and departed for Egypt late June 1917**

18<sup>th</sup> May 1916, “**HIMALAYA**” departed for London with 116 Letter Bags & 26 Parcel Bags.

There was a departure on the 15<sup>th</sup> May by “**OVERTON**” with 63 Letter Bags for Malta via Mudros which appears an unlikely route and mail posted from the front on the 14<sup>th</sup> may not have arrived in time.

## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

### SS Saint Louis

French SS Saint Louis, 5202 ton gross, owner Societe Navale de L'Ouest

“Details regarding this incident have proved difficult to find. So far the only reference found is in The Postal History of the British Army in W.W.I. By Kennedy and Crabbe who state:

“Mail from Salonika posted at the end of May and early June 1917 shows signs of damage by water, and some (but not all) covers bear cachets to this effect- 207 letter bags were despatched on the St Louis on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1917.”

To date it has not been possible to substantiate this statement, nor has it been possible to trace a vessel of this name. However, the fifth entry under Saint Louis in Lloyd's Register of shipping for 1917 is a 5202 ton French vessel owned by Societe Navale de L'Ouest.

This ship was damaged in the Mediterranean by a submarine on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1917 and towed to Messina, Italy. No details of this vessel's movements or cargo can be found, but if Kennedy and Crabbe are correct, recovery of the mails would have been possible. The cachets are known struck in cherry pink.”

*Reference Maritime Disaster Mail by Hoggarth & Gwynn Page 184 / 85*

Firebrace records four covers from this incident.

Type 1 Hand-stamp, APO SX 4 29<sup>th</sup> May 17\*\* & FPO T 22 1<sup>st</sup> June 1917

Type 2 Hand-stamp, APO SX 11 31<sup>st</sup> May 17 & FPO T 27 1<sup>st</sup> June 1917\*

DAMAGED BY IMMERSION

IN SEA WATER.—I.S.

Saint Louis Type 1 Cachet

DAMAGED BY IMMERSION

IN SEA WATER

Saint Louis Type 2 Cachet

*Reference Kennedy & Crabb. The Postal History of the British Army in WWI Page 281*

*Reference Firebrace Campaigns & Occupations in the Near East, 1914-1924 A Postal history Page 433*

*No Reference to this incident in History of the British Army Postal Service Vol 11 by E B Proud*

*One further cover is recorded ex FPO 179 27<sup>th</sup> May 1917 HJ Atwood Collection Grosvenor Auctions 16<sup>th</sup> April 2002*

*\*\*J Firebrace Cavendish Auction No 600 Lot 150116<sup>th</sup> May 2001*



## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

### Mail carried on SS St Louis

#### DDPS Salonika War Diary Entries reference St Louis

Built in 1913 - Operated by Cie. Générale Transatlantique, Havre

Arrivals and Despatches by Steamers on the Marseilles and Malta Services During April 1917

#### 24<sup>th</sup> April - *St Louis*

Despatched for London 57 Letter Bags – 11 Parcel Bags – 255 Empties -

Despatched for Marseilles 1 Letter Bag – Boulogne 3 Letter Bags - W.O. Bag

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> June - *St Louis*

Despatched for London 199 Letter Bags – 44 Parcel Bags – 766 Empties –

Despatched for Marseilles 2 Letter Bags - - Boulogne 6 Letter Bags – W.O. Bag

**Note** - there is no mention of *St Louis* arriving in Salonika, this would suggest she did not carry mail on any outward passage.

**Note** – there are no references to *St Louis* prior to the entry of 24<sup>th</sup> April 1917.

#### New Research

UC 38 Commanded by Oberleutnant Alfred Klatt has been identified as the U-boat which damaged *Saint Louis* on the 15<sup>th</sup> June, 1917

Saint Louis was torpedoed off Taorima, but was salvaged. Two further vessels were also attacked on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 1917.

British steamer *Elvaston* was damaged by torpedo 3 miles South East of Taorima.

British steamer *Pasha* was sunk by torpedo in the straits of Messina.



Alfred Klatt

Born 30<sup>th</sup> November, 1889 – Died 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1918 – UB 68 Sunk Mediterranean Sea.

#### Successes

32 ships sunk for a total of 38,744 GRT

3 ships damaged for a total of 13,352 GRT

Reference [www.uboat.net](http://www.uboat.net)

## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to London,

Cancelled Field Post Office T 27 – Code A – 1<sup>st</sup> June 1917

This FPO was located on the Struma Front north of Salonika serving 27<sup>th</sup> Division Train

When received in London the envelope front has been affixed onto an OHMS Post Office “Ambulance” cover, the remainder and contents including a silk handkerchief enclosed within.

Cover shows two strikes of the London Inland Section Type I cachet

*Ex George Crabb Collection.*



*Illustration reduced in size.*

### Carried on the SS Saint Louis

Illustrated in “The Postal History of the British Army in World War I

Before and After – 1903 to 1929

Alistair Kennedy – George Crabb

**The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail**

Silk Handkerchief Embroidered

**SALONIQUE 1917**

Ex Cover cancelled FPO T 27





**The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail**

**ARMY POSTAL SERVICES – IRREGULARITY FORM**

E.F. — No. 5.

ARMY POSTAL SERVICES.

IRREGULARITY FORM.

in ARO X

rt the undermentioned irregularity.

W.C.O. 14 F.D.C. 21/10

BASE ARMY POST OFFICE  
X  
31 MY  
17  
X

\* NATURE OF IRREGULARITY

One bag of correspondence for  
43 Gen Hspcl labe d to 30 Stat  
Hspcl. Labels attached.

en to Rectify the Error:

was to 43 Gen H.

arity, but refers more particularly to missending  
and to numbers of bags wrongly advised.

nd correspondence,

Signature

A.D.A.P.S.

1/157 43415 G & S

*illustration slightly reduced.*

## **The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail**

Cover to the Ingersoll Watch Co Ltd, Regent House, Kingsway, London

Cancelled Field Post Office 80 - Code X - 27<sup>th</sup> May 1917

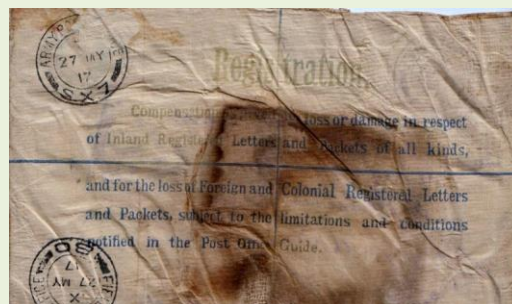
Back stamped Army Post Office SX 7 - 27<sup>th</sup> May

Field Post Office 80 was located at Stavros and served 80<sup>th</sup> Brigade 27<sup>th</sup> Division

Army Post Office SX 7 was also located in the Stavros area.

Censor Hand-stamp unreadable

**Carried on the SS Saint Louis**



*Reverse of Cover reduced*



### **The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail**

Cover to Miss Baker, 20 Postley Road, Maidstone, Kent

Cancelled Field Post Office 81 – Code A – 1<sup>st</sup> June 1917

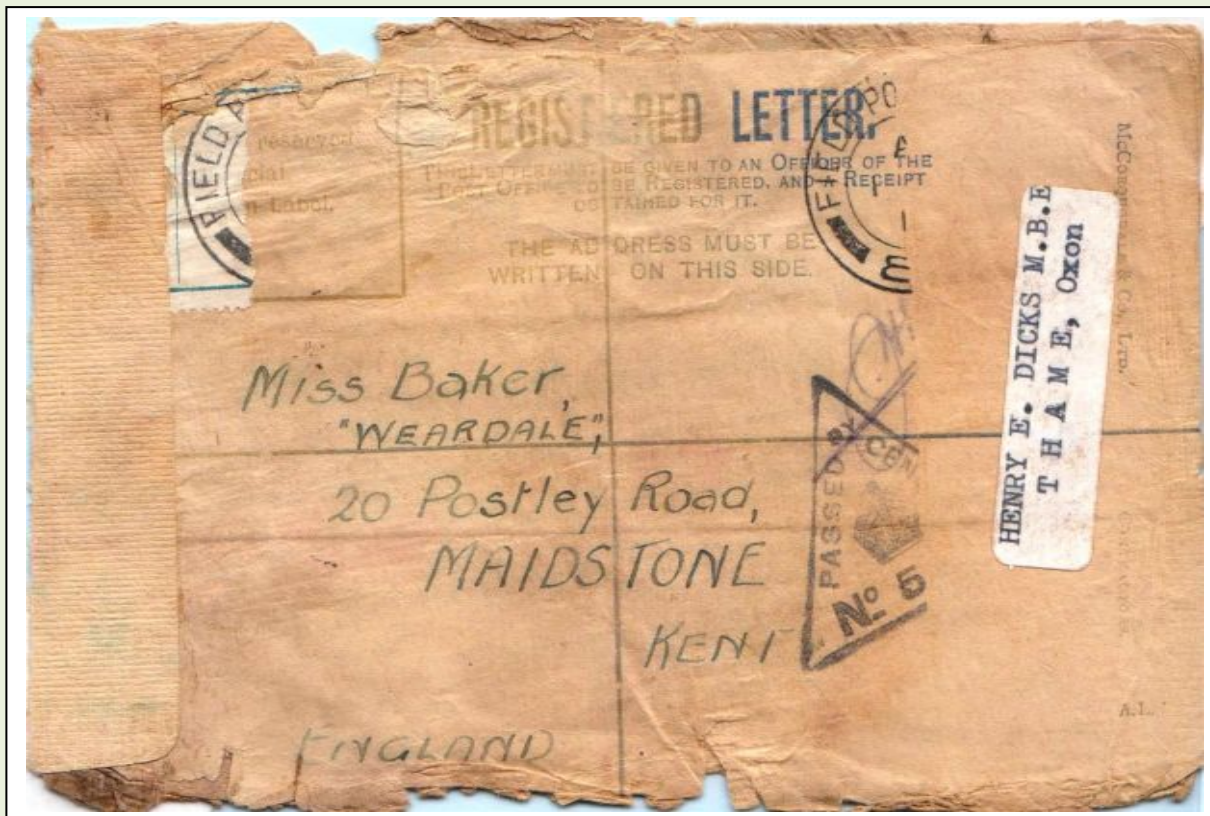
This FPO was located at Kilo 70 on the Serres Road, served 81<sup>st</sup> Brigade 27<sup>th</sup> Division

Cover has gone via Base APO X 1<sup>st</sup> June 1917

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 5?? *Possibly 515*

Allocated to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders

**Carried on the SS Saint Louis**



A small number of non-registered covers and at least one postcard are also recorded from this incident. I also have a record of a parcel sent to Kew Gardens endorsed “received wet” from this incident.



## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Mr Watson, 84 High Street, Sheffield, England

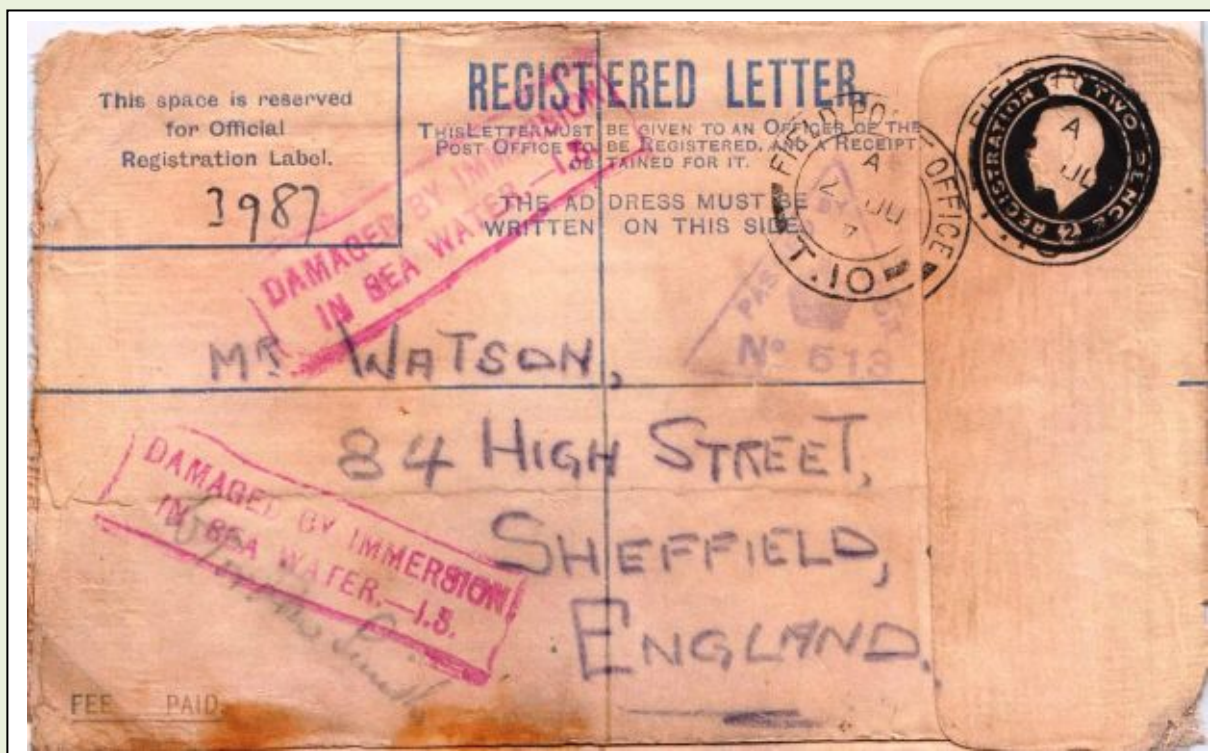
Cancelled Field Post Office T 10 – Code A – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1917

This FPO served 10<sup>th</sup> Division Train located on the Struma Front

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 513 Allocated to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Irish Rifles

*Signed by W. Forrestier Smith*

**Carried on the SS Saint Louis**



Hand-stamp applied in London

DAMAGED BY IMMERSION

IN SEA WATER.—I.S.

Type 1 Cachet

*Ex Norman Hogarth Collection*

### The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to The Army & Navy Stores Ltd, 105 Victoria St, Westminster, London

Cancelled Field Post Office D 60 – No Code – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1917

This FPO served 60<sup>th</sup> Division Headquarters located at Uchantar, near Salonika

11<sup>th</sup> June 1917 – 14<sup>th</sup> June 1917- Proud Records Division in Egypt by 20<sup>th</sup> June 1917

Cover was received at Base APO X (Salonika) 23<sup>rd</sup> June & arrived in London 11<sup>th</sup> July 1917

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 2985 – allocated to 2/16<sup>th</sup> Battn London Regiment

Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*



25<sup>th</sup> June 1917 “**PEIHO**” departed with the London Mails via Marseilles & Boulogne, 218 Letter Bags, 26 Parcel Bags and 1 War Office Bag

WAR Diary for June 1917 records telegrams between London and Salonika regarding dispatch of mails via Taranto and the Overland Route due to increasing shipping losses.

## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Messer's Cox & Co, 16 Charing Cross, London

Cancelled Field Post Office 84 – Code A – 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1917

This FPO served 84<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 28<sup>th</sup> Division located at Mosgal 18<sup>th</sup> July 1917 --- Krusha Front by October 1917

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 1265 *Unallocated by FD*

Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*

Received at Base APO X 4<sup>th</sup> August - Arrived in London – August 1917



*Back-stamps*

5<sup>th</sup> August 1917, “**KASHMIR**” departed for Taranto with 161 Letter Bags for onward carriage on the Overland Route.



## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Mr John Clark, 76 Glasgow Rd, Burnbank, Hamilton, Scotland

Cancelled Field Post Office T 22 - Code + - 9<sup>th</sup> August 1917

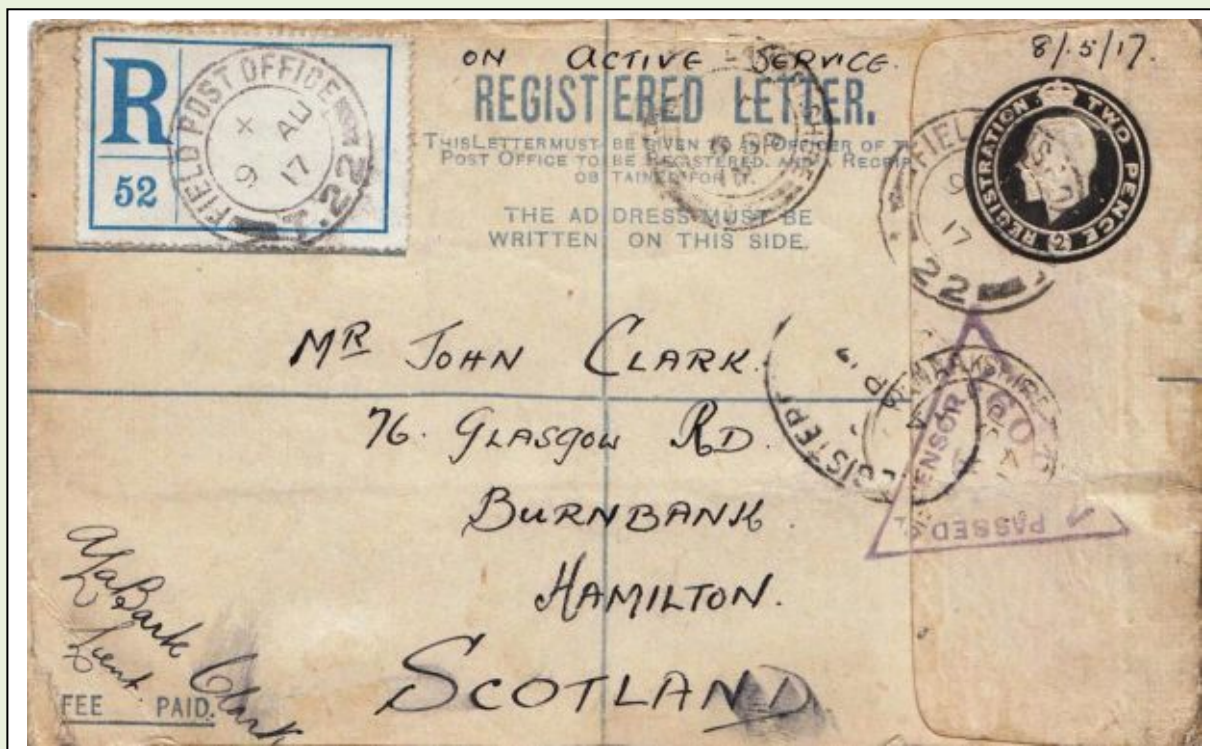
This FPO served 22<sup>nd</sup> Division Train located on the Dorian Front

Received in London 4<sup>th</sup> September & Hamilton 6<sup>th</sup> September 1916

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 2091

Allocated to 67<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance

Signed A La Bark Clark Lieut – *Not Traced*



No Back-stamps

17<sup>th</sup> August 1917, “**ARAGON**” departed for Taranto with 274 Letter Bags for onward carriage on the Overland Route.

Three sailing were made to Taranto in August, 5<sup>th</sup> “**KASHMIR**” with 161 Letter Bags  
8<sup>th</sup> “**RE VITTORE**” WITH 65 Letter Bags

Parcels continued to go on the Marseilles Route, two sailings in August.

Nine dispatches were made to Malta via Mudros in August, a total of 98 Letter Bags.

Inward mails continued on the Marseilles Route in August, a total of 8241 Letter Bags received on eight sailings.

## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Messrs Kerr, c/o R B Freeman Esq, Harvey St, Grafton St, Dublin, Ireland

Cancelled Army Post Office SX 13 – Code B – 24<sup>th</sup> August 1917

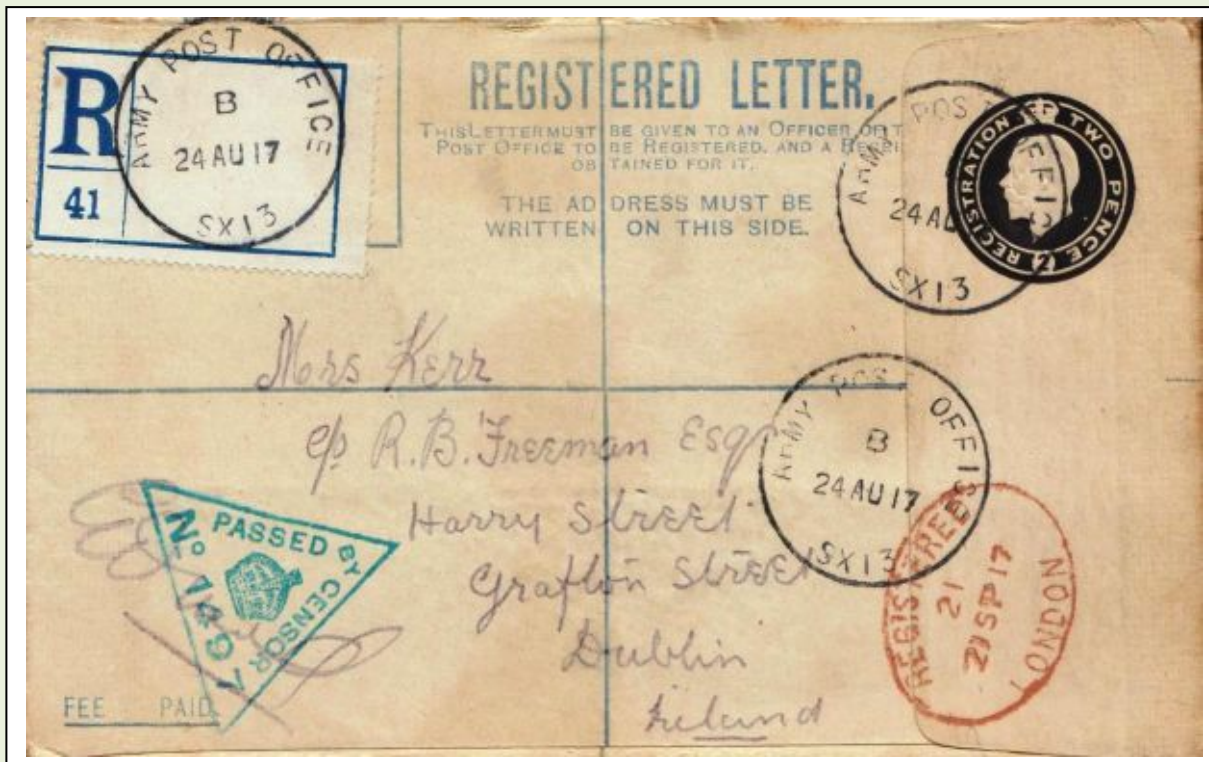
This APO was located at Euredzik to the East of Salonika

Opened in June 1917

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 1497 *Unallocated by FD*

Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*

Cover went via Base APO X 25<sup>th</sup> August, Received in London 21<sup>st</sup> September 1917



Following the dispatch on “**ARAGON**” 17<sup>th</sup> August 1917, the next dispatch of Letter mails was on the 29<sup>th</sup> August, “**ITRIA**”, sailed for Malta with 28 Letter Bags.

4<sup>th</sup> September 1917, “**REGINA ELENA**” departed for Taranto with 479 Letter Bags

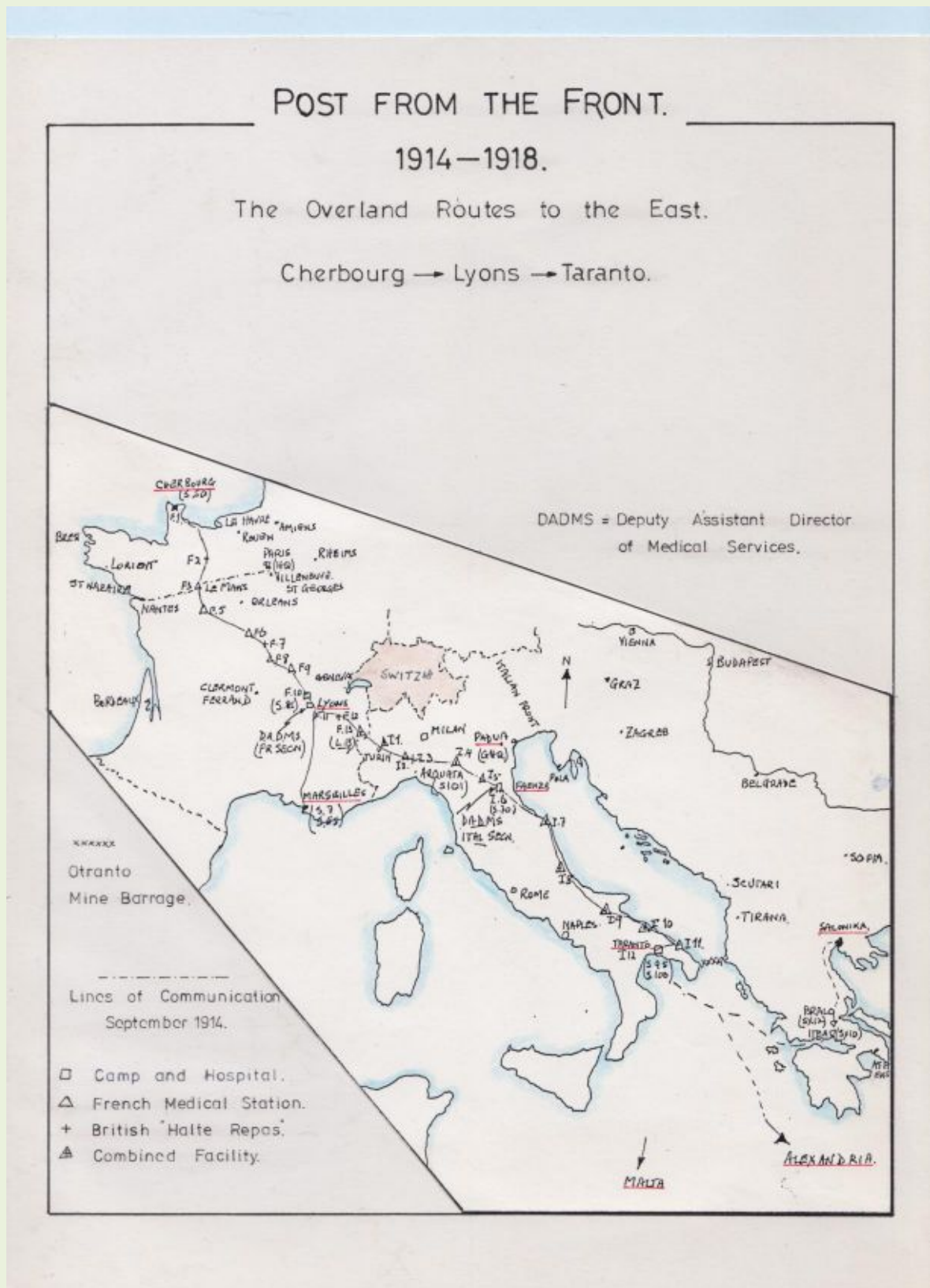
Three further dispatches were made by Sea to Taranto on the 6<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> September,

The next dispatch was 27<sup>th</sup> September, 244 Letter Bags on the Itea route by Rail.

**The Beginning of use of the Overland Route which was a daily schedule**

## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Map shows route of the Overland Route from Taranto to the French Coast.



*Ex Frank Daniel Display Collection. It is estimated that half a million allied servicemen and women travelled on this route during its operation.*



## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Service de France, Paris.

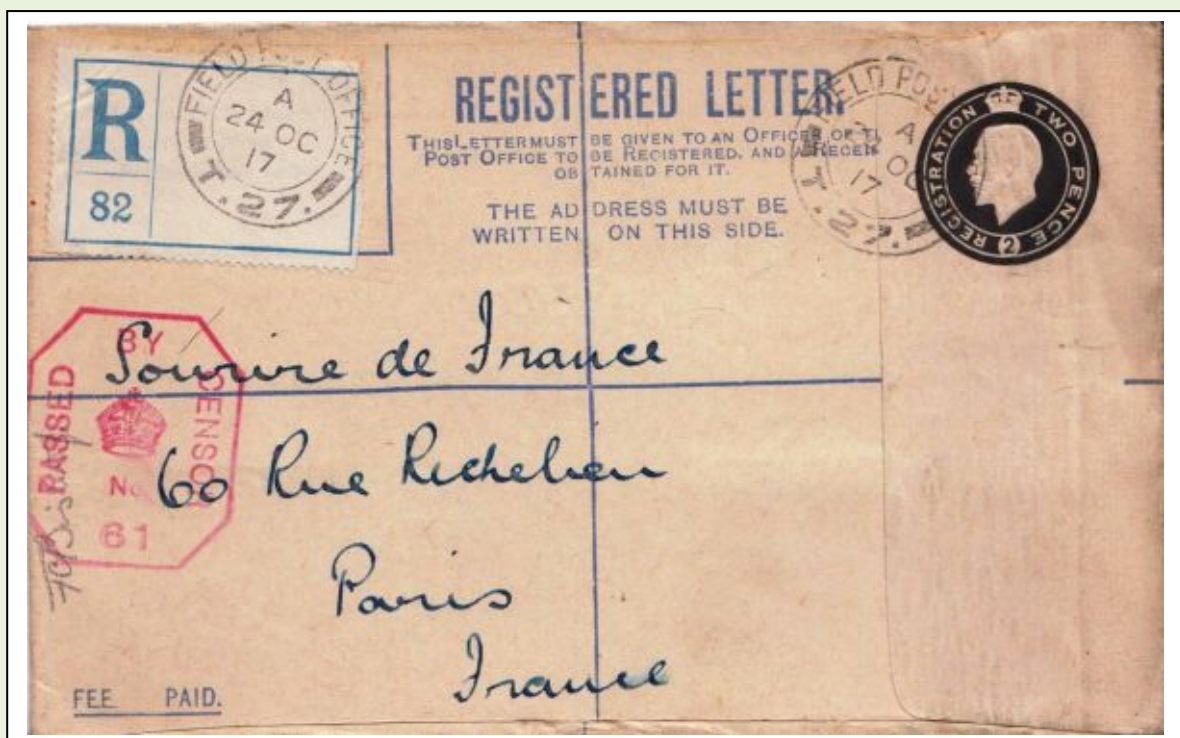
Cancelled Field Post Office T 27 – Code A - 24<sup>th</sup> October 1917

Cover went via Base APO X 24<sup>th</sup> October 1917 as shown by a back-stamp

This FPO served 27<sup>th</sup> Division Train located in the Struma Valley

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 61 *Allocation unclear*

Signed by Censor (*not traced*)



24<sup>th</sup> October 1917, 79 Bags Letter Mail, 5 Bags Parcels dispatched for London via the Overland Route, plus 3 Bags for Taranto and 3 Bags for Boulogne.

25<sup>th</sup> October, 34 Bags Letter Mail, 3 Parcel Bags dispatched on the same route.

Total Dispatch for Letter Mails to London in October was 970 Letter Bags and 101 Parcel Bags

Total Dispatch of all Letter Mails was 2469 Bags in October, 1917

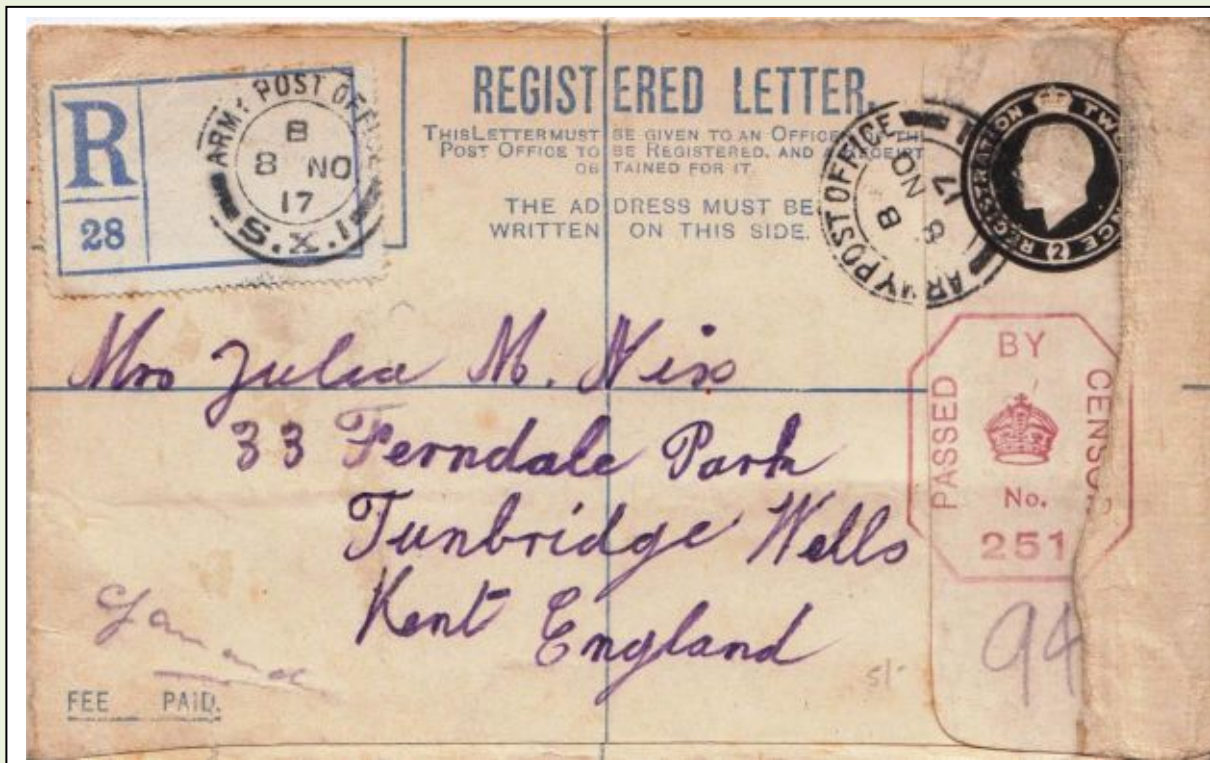
## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Cancelled Army Post Office S X 1 – Code B – 8<sup>th</sup> November 1917

This APO was located on the Monastir Road, Salonika  
Via Base APO X but no Back-stamp, Received in Tunbridge Wells 24<sup>th</sup> November 1917

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 251 *Unallocated by FD*  
Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*  
Registration Label has been pre-cancelled.



*Back-stamp*

A daily dispatch of Letter Mail was in operation to Itea via Bralo by rail, Train departed Salonika for Bralo at 1900 hours, on arrival at Bralo mails were transferred to Lorry for the trip over the mountains to Itea. Then by steamer to Taranto to connect with the Overland route for onward dispatch.

From 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1917 train time was altered to depart at 0840 hours

Dispatched on the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> and arrival on the 24<sup>th</sup> gives a transit time of 16/17 days.

Between 25 & 40 Letter Bags dispatched daily in November 1917.  
Mail for Malta was also dispatched on this Route.

## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Mrs J M Collard, C/o Mrs Holborn, Upper Tooting, London S W 17

Cancelled Field Post Office 82 – Code A – 13<sup>th</sup> November 1917

This FPO served 82<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 27<sup>th</sup> Division – Location uncertain

Cover went via Base APO X 14<sup>th</sup> November – Received in London 25<sup>th</sup> November 1917

Censored by a unclear Type 7 Hand-stamp

**Signed Hubert Martin Collard Lieutenant, Army Cyclist Corps**



*Reverse of Cover reduced*

15<sup>th</sup> November 1917, 34 Letter Bags dispatched by Rail via Itea for Taranto and onward passage on the Overland Route.



## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Messer's Chas Packer & Co, Silversmiths Ltd, 76 & 78 Regent Street, London

Cancelled Army Post Office S X 4 – Code B – 25<sup>th</sup> November 1917

This APO was located at Kalamaria South of Salonika serving the Hospitals there.

Received at Base APO X 25<sup>th</sup> November, No London Cancel

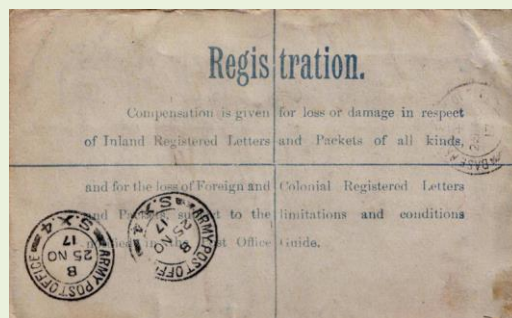
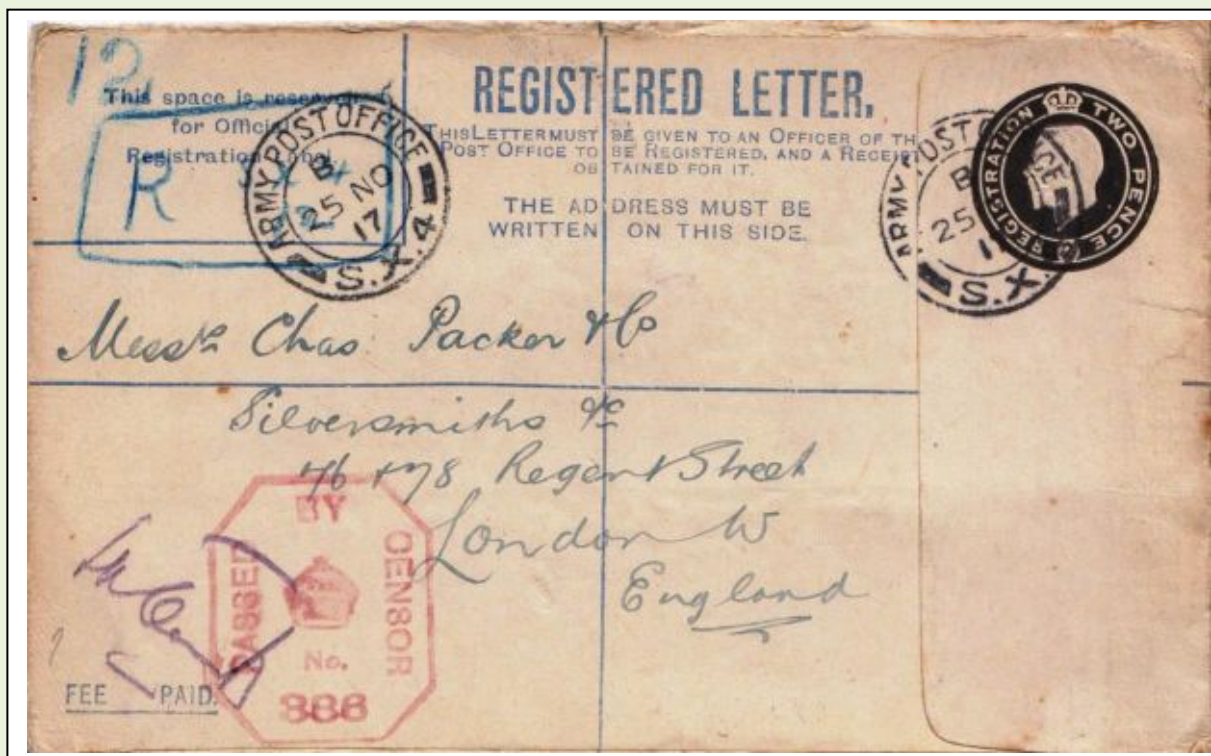
Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 386 – Allocated to 983<sup>rd</sup> Area Employment Coy

Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*

Hand drawn Registration Etiquette

12

R SX 4



*Reverse of cover reduced*

26<sup>th</sup> November 1917, 30 Letter Bags were dispatched via Bralo and Itia on the Overland Route. Mail was dispatched by train at 0840 hours in the morning for Bralo

### The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to The Kodak Co Ltd, Rue Cherif Pasha, Alexandria, Egypt

Cancelled Field Post Office H 12 – Code A – 11<sup>th</sup> December 1917

This FPO served XII Corps Headquarters located at Janes

Received at Base APO X 11<sup>th</sup> December and Base APO Z (Alexandria) 19<sup>th</sup> December 1917

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 287 *Unallocated by FD*

Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*



*Back-stamps reduced*



12<sup>th</sup> December 1917, “**BERMUDIAN**” departed on the Post Said route with 13 Bags for Alexandria and 18 Bags for Port Said.

## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Messer's Barclay & Company, Broad Street, Stanford, Lincolnshire

Cancelled Army Post Office S X 4 – Code B- 30<sup>th</sup> December 1917

Cover went via Base APO X, Received in London 18<sup>th</sup> January 1918

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 386 Allocated to 983<sup>rd</sup> Area Employment Coy

Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*



*Back-stamp*

31<sup>st</sup> December 1917, 27 Letter Bags were dispatched via Bralo and Itea on the Overland Route.

Mail was dispatched Daily during December 1917



## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

### THE SERBIAN RELIEF FUND

Cover to Mrs Muirhead, 26 Stoke Newington Common, London in England  
Cancelled Single Ring Cancel Field Post Office GX – No Code – 27<sup>th</sup> February 1918  
The FPO served GHQ British Salonika Army located in Salonika at the Greek Orphanage  
Cover went via Base APO X 28<sup>th</sup> February, Received in London 20<sup>th</sup> March 1918

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 305 in Green *Unallocated by FD*

**Not signed by Sender or Censor**

**Censor No 305 I believe to be the Chief Base Censor, usually found in Green on mail  
which has been incorrectly posted or with unreadable APO / FPO Date stamps  
With no signature this cover would have been intercepted**



*Back-stamps reduced*

With this cover being subject to special censorship exact date of dispatch unknown,  
Daily dispatches were made during March 1918

## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Miss E L John, 15 Albion Road, Hampstead, London

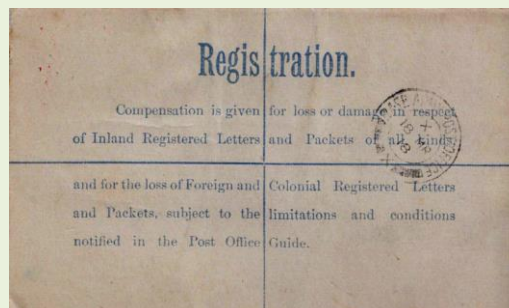
Cancelled Army Post Office S X 4 – Code B – 18<sup>th</sup> March 1918

This APO was located at Kalamaria South of Salonika serving the Hospitals there.

Received at Base APO X 18<sup>th</sup> March, Arrived in London 13<sup>th</sup> April 1918

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 118 - Allocated to 63<sup>rd</sup> General Hospital

Signed by Sender **Lieutenant A Hilton John Royal Army Medical Corps**



*Reverse of Cover  
Reduced*

19<sup>th</sup> March 1918, 32 Letter Bags were dispatched via Bralo and Itea on the Overland Route.

Dispatch also included 4 Parcel Bags, 1 Letter Bag for Taranto and 2 Letter Bags for Malta.

## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Winch Bros, Colchester, England

Cancelled Field Post Office H 12 – Code B - 30<sup>th</sup> March 1918

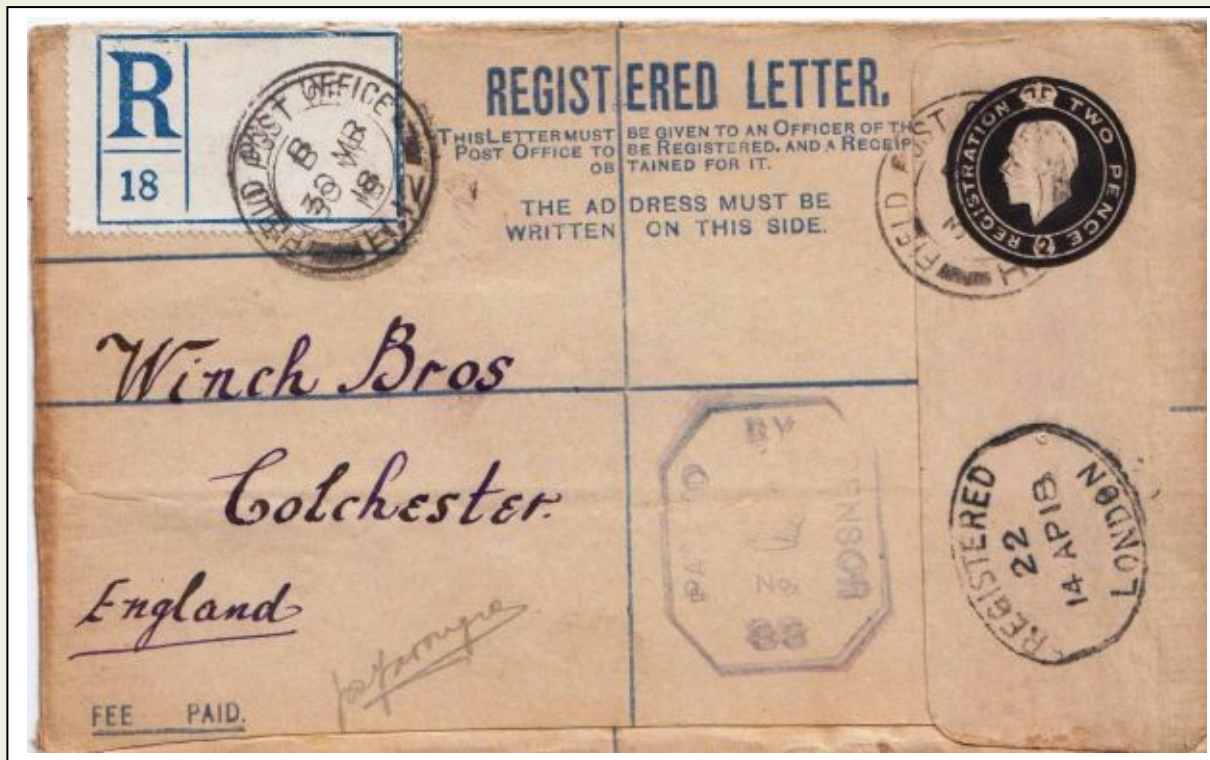
This FPO served XII Corps Headquarters located at Janes

Cover went via Base APO X but No Back-stamps, Received in London 14<sup>th</sup> April 1918

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 83

Allocated to 483<sup>rd</sup> Company Royal Army Service Corps

Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*



*Back-stamped FPO H 12 30<sup>th</sup> March 1918*

31<sup>st</sup> March 1918, 27 Letter Bags were dispatched via Bralo and Itea on the Overland Route

A total of 1457 Letter Bags and 304 Parcel Bags were dispatched in March, 1918 broken down as shown below.

To London 959 Letter Bags , Taranto 64 Letter Bags, Malta 94 Letter Bags and Port Said 340 Letter Bags.

This was a decrease in Letter mails for February which totaled 1888 Letter Bags and an increase in Parcel Bags which totalled 100 Bags.

Incoming Mails for March were 9284 Letter Bags and 15265 Parcel Bags.



## **The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail**

Commercial Cover to Basle, Switzerland

Cancelled Single Ring Field Post Office G X – No Code 21<sup>st</sup> April 1918

The FPO served GHQ British Salonika Army located in Salonika at the Greek Orphanage

Postage was 2 ½ d Foreign Letter Rate & 2 d Registration Fee

Received at Base APO X 21<sup>st</sup> April where cover was censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 305 Chief Base Censor?

**EXAMINED BY BASE CENSOR** Label applied here (Firebrace EBC 3)

Cover then went via the French Military Postal System as shown by the

**CONTROLE POSTAL MILITAIRE** Label, Tied by the Oval Hand-stamp

**CONTROLE/6PAR L' AUTORITE MILITAIRE** - Received in Basle 17 V 18



21<sup>st</sup> April 1918, 30 Letter Bags dispatched on the Bralo – Itea Route for Taranto  
This dispatch also comprised 1 Letter Bag for Taranto & 2 Letter bags for Malta

## **The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail**

Commercial Cover to Basle, Switzerland

Cancelled Single Ring Field Post Office G X – No Code 21<sup>st</sup> April 1918

The FPO served GHQ British Salonika Army located in Salonika at the Greek Orphanage

Postage was 2 ½ d Foreign Letter Rate & 2 d Registration Fee

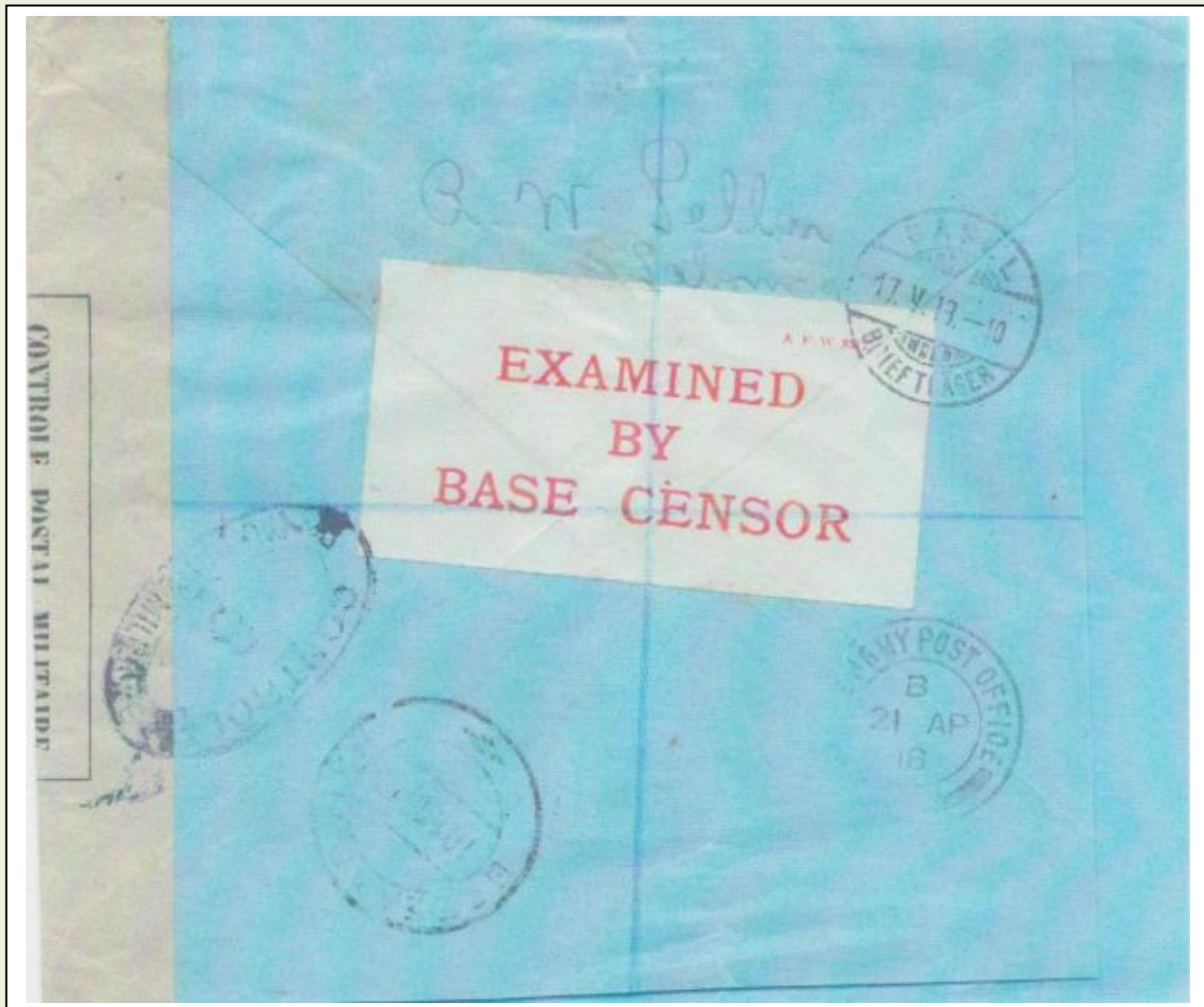
Received at Base APO X 21<sup>st</sup> April where cover was censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 305 Chief Base Censor?

**EXAMINED BY BASE CENSOR** Label applied here (Firebrace EBC 3)

Cover then went via the French Military Postal System as shown by the

**CONTROLE POSTAL MILITAIRE** Label, Tied by the Oval Hand-stamp

**CONTROLE/6PAR L' AUTORITE MILITAIRE** - Received in Basle 17 V 18



**Reverse of cover**

### **The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail**

Cover to Mr. J. Jones, 45 Dingle Lane, Liverpool

Cancelled Army Post Office S X 1 – Code B – 26<sup>th</sup> April 1918

This APO was located on the Monastir Road, Salonika

Via Base APO X but no Back-stamp, Received in London 8<sup>th</sup> May 1918

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 103

Allocated to 28<sup>th</sup> General Hospital

Signed by Censor – *Not traced*



*No Back-stamps*

26<sup>th</sup> April 1918, 31 Letter Bags and 1 Parcel Bag dispatched on the Bralo – Itea Route for Taranto

This dispatch also comprised 2 Letter Bags for Taranto & 2 Letter bags for Malta

27<sup>th</sup> April 1918, 30 Letter Bags and 2 Parcel Bags dispatched on the Bralo – Itea Route for Taranto

This dispatch also comprised 1 Letter Bag for Taranto & 2 Letter bags for Malta

Empty bags were sent back most days.



### The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to the Anglo – Egyptian Bank Ltd, Alexandria, Egypt

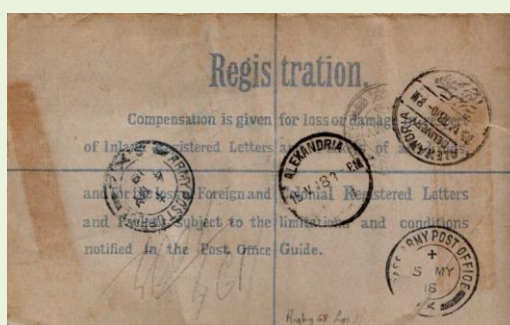
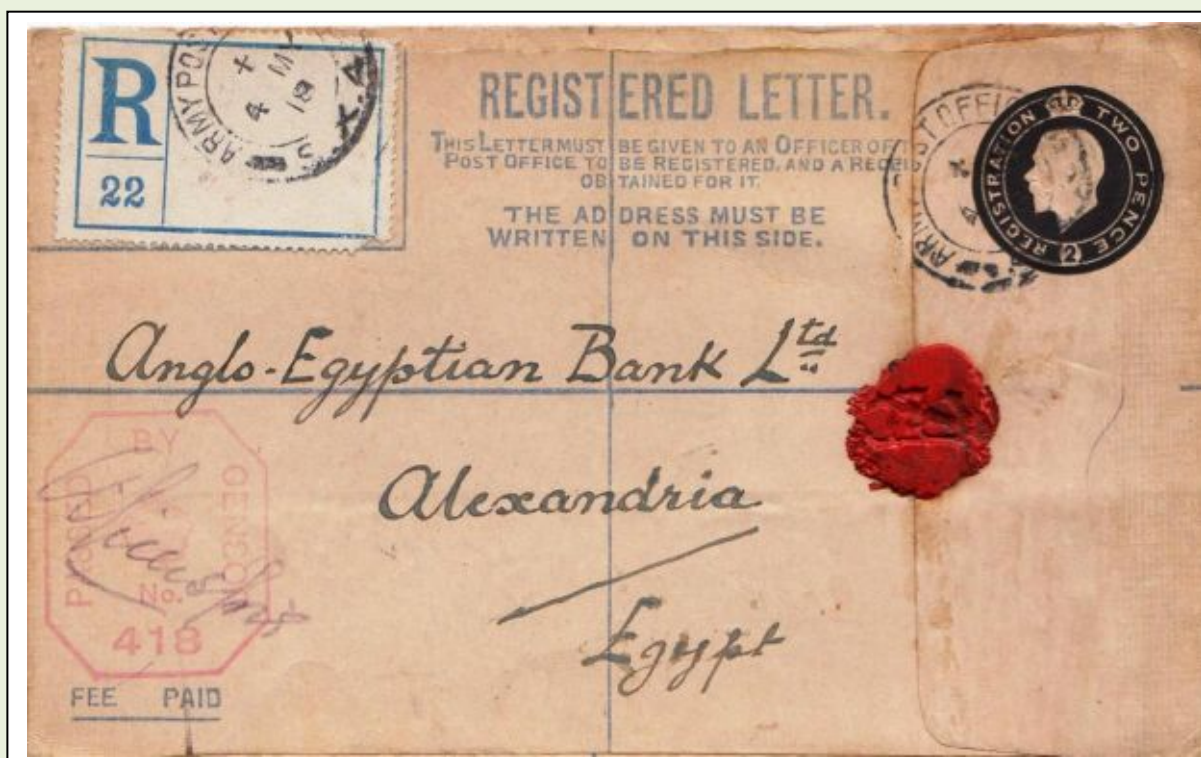
Cancelled Army Post Office SX 4 – Code + - 4<sup>th</sup> May 1918

This APO was located at Kalamaria, South of Salonika serving the Hospitals there.

Received at Base APO X 5<sup>th</sup> May, Alexandria Civil Post Office 15<sup>th</sup> May 1918

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 418 *Unallocated by FD*

Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*



*Reverse of Cover  
reduced*

9<sup>th</sup> May 1918, “**YARBORO**” departed with 68 Bags for Port Said.

Made up of the Dispatches of the 6<sup>th</sup> 42 Bags, 7<sup>th</sup> 6 Bags & 9<sup>th</sup> 20 Bags

The next dispatch was on the 12<sup>th</sup> May “**SAN PABLO**” 22 Bags for Port Said.

## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Army & Navy Cooperative Society Ltd, 105 Victoria Street, Westminster, London

Cancelled Field Post Office T 28 –Code A – 14<sup>th</sup> May 1918

This FPO served 28<sup>th</sup> Division Train located at Kilo 70 Serres Road

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 79

Allocated to 17<sup>th</sup> Field Company Royal Engineers

Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*

Via Base APO X – Received in London 27<sup>th</sup> May 1918



No Back stamps

15<sup>th</sup> May 1918, 34 Letter Bags were dispatched via Bralo and Itea on the Overland Route

Dispatches were made Daily in May 1918

### The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Mr J Jones, 45 Dingle Lane, Liverpool S, England

Cancelled Army Post Office S X 1 – Code B – 15<sup>th</sup> May 1918

This APO was located on the Monastir Road, Salonika

Via Base APO X, Received in London 29<sup>th</sup> May 1918

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 103, Allocated to 28<sup>th</sup> General Hospital

Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*



No Back stamps

16<sup>th</sup> May 1918, 35 Letter Bags were dispatched via Bralo and Itea on the Overland Route



### The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Mrs R.F. Hinson, 63 Devonshire Road, Cambridge

Cancelled Field Post Office 65 – Code + - 16<sup>th</sup> May 1918

This FPO served 65<sup>th</sup> Brigade 22<sup>nd</sup> Division located on the Doiran Front  
Received in London 30<sup>th</sup> May 1918 as shown by Back-stamp

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 5 – Allocated to 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers  
Signed by sender 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant R. F. Hinson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, serving with the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Unrecorded Cachet

**SALVEDFROM  
SUBMERGED  
MAIL**



Daily Dispatches of Letter Bags throughout May, 1918 on the Rail route via Bralo & Itza for Taranto and onward passage on the Overland Route.

The War Diary DDPS Salonika records that in early May, 1918 mail was dispatched by Truck from Salonika to Bralo instead of the Rail Route

No incident traced resulting in this cachet.

### The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Messer's Kodak Ltd, 30 Rue Chief Pasha, Alexandria, Egypt

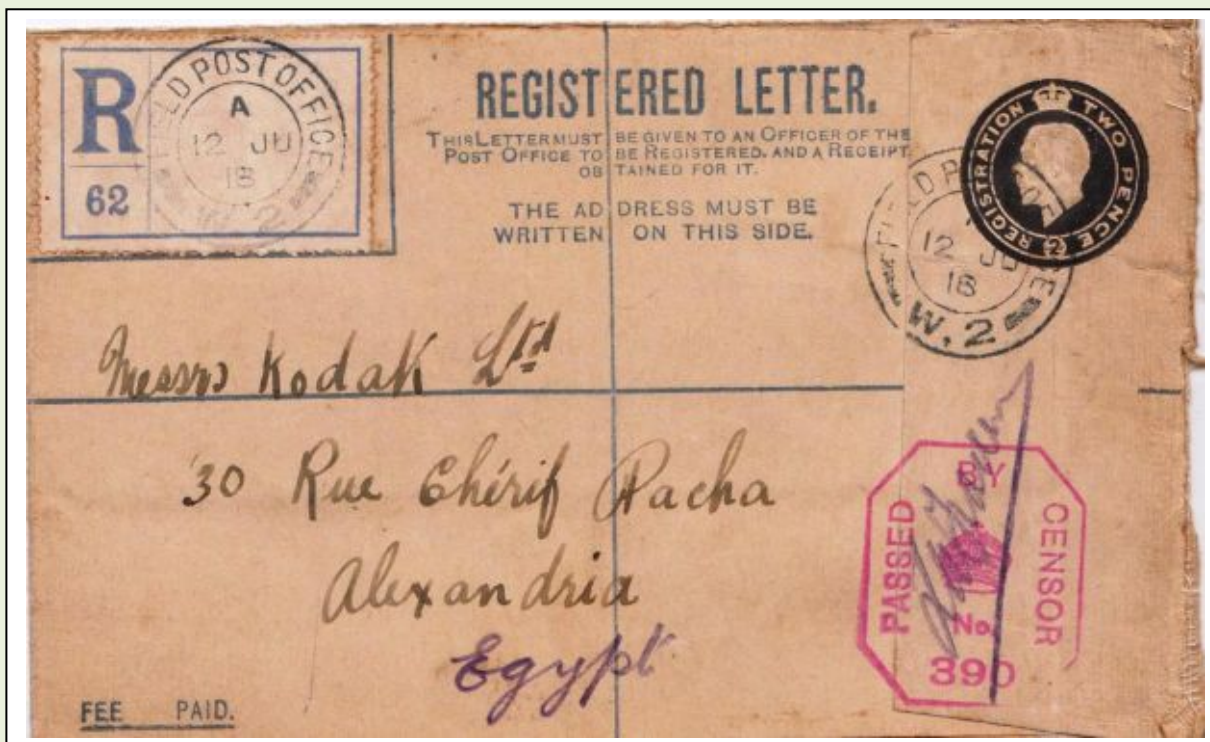
Cancelled Field Post Office W 2 – Code A – 12<sup>th</sup> June 1918

This FPO was located at Banista serving British Units to the Royal Serbian Army

Received at Base APO X 13<sup>th</sup> June – No Arrival cancels

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 390 *Unallocated by FD*

Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*



13<sup>th</sup> June 1918, “**FLANDRIER**” departed for Port Said with 44 Bags comprising

36 Bags made up on the 12<sup>th</sup> & a further 8 Bags made up on the 13<sup>th</sup> June.

On 16<sup>th</sup> June “**MAPLE**” departed with 22 Bags for Alexandria.

## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Kodak Ltd, 30 Rue Chief Pasha, Alexandria

Cancelled Field Post Office 80 – Code A – 26<sup>th</sup> July 1918

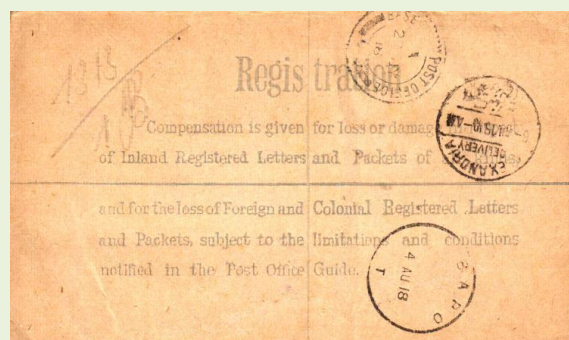
This FPO was located in the Varder area serving 80th Brigade, 27<sup>th</sup> Division

Cover went via Base Army Post Office X 27<sup>th</sup> July, Received at BAPO T (Egypt) 4<sup>th</sup> August

Delivered by the Civilian Post Office 6<sup>th</sup> August 1918

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 92 – Allocated to 82<sup>nd</sup> Company Field Ambulance

Signed by Censor – *Not traced.*



*Back-stamps*

28<sup>th</sup> July 1918, “**CHAK SANG**” departed for Port Said with 32 Bags

7 Dispatches were made to Egypt in July, 1918 totalling 180 Bags for Port Said

8 Arrivals are recorded with a total of 437 Bags from Alexandria and Port Said.



### The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Piece ex a registered package to Mr H J Turner, 98 Drakefell Road, New Cross, London

Cancelled Field Post Office H 12 – Code A – 21<sup>st</sup> August 1918

This FPO served XII Corps Headquarters located at Janes

No Transit Markings.

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 349 *Unallocated by FD*

Endorsed “*From F H Wally Dod 12<sup>th</sup> Mcc --- Battn, Salonika*”

Postage Paid is 1/7d & 2d Registration Fee

This would pay the Letter rate of 1d per ounce over 4 ounce’s giving a weight of 23 ounces.

Sender is possibly Sergeant F W Dod 562057 Royal Engineers



23<sup>rd</sup> August 1918, 28 Letter Bags dispatched on the Overland Route via Itea.

## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

Cover to Mrs J Mortimer, Tuddenham, Nr Ipswich, Suffolk

Cancelled Field Post Office D 26 – Code A – 13<sup>th</sup> September 1918

This FPO served 26<sup>th</sup> Division Headquarters located on the Doiran Front

Via Base APO X 14<sup>th</sup> September – Received in London 28<sup>th</sup> September 1918

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 141, Allocated to 26<sup>th</sup> Division Headquarters

Signed by Censor – *Not Traced*



Back-stamps



14<sup>th</sup> September 1918, 31 Letter Bags dispatched on the Overland Route via Itea.

### **The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail**

Piece ex a registered package to Mr H J Turner, 98 Drakefell Road, New Cross, London

Cancelled Army Post Office S X 15 – Code A – 24<sup>th</sup> September 1918

This APO was located at Mega Kara Burna, 5 miles southwest of Salonika serving 67<sup>th</sup> & 82<sup>nd</sup> General Hospitals.

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 122 – Allocated to 67<sup>th</sup> General Hospital

**Signed F H Wally Dod**

Endorsed *“Dried Butterflies in Cigarette Tins”*.

Postage Paid is 1/6d plus 2d Registration Fee

This would pay the Letter rate of 1d per ounce over 4 ounce’s giving a weight of 22 ounces.



24<sup>th</sup> September 1918, 34 Letter Bags dispatched on the Overland Route via Itea.

Daily Dispatches of Letter & Parcel Bags took place during September 1918.

**Letter Rate - Postage Free First 4 oz, then 1d per oz.**

**Parcel Rates – Up to 3 lbs 1/-, 3 lbs to 7 lbs 1/- 9d, 7 lbs to 11 lbs 2/- 6d.**



## Returns of Mails dispatched from Base A.P.O. X

No details of quantity of Mails dispatched October 1915 to February 1916 recorded.

Detailed Records commence in March 1916

February 1916	1054 Letter Bags	258 Parcel Bags (Taken from March summary)
March	904 Letter Bags	295 Parcel Bags
April	890 Letter Bags	294 Parcel Bags
May	958 Letter Bags	262 Parcel Bags
June	893 Letter Bags	229 Parcel Bags
July	1024 Letter Bags	150 Parcel Bags
August	1466 Letter Bags	121 Parcel Bags
September	1573 Letter bags	182 Parcel bags
October	2015 Letter Bags	190 Parcel Bags
November	2002 Letter Bags	254 Parcel Bags
December	2288 Letter Bags	281 Parcel Bags
<b>Totals for 1916</b>	15067 Letter Bags	2516 Parcel Bags

Total of Stamps Sold in 1916 £4837 16/- 6 ½d

Postal Orders Sold £154973. 0.0 - Postal Orders Paid £12056. 0. 5d

War Saving Certificates £ 00

January 17	2378 Letter Bags	312 Parcel Bags
February	1589 Letter Bags	199 Parcel Bags
March	1905 Letter Bags	306 Parcel Bags
April	1708 Letter Bags	249 Parcel Bags
May	1471 Letter Bags	192 Parcel Bags
June	3726 Letter Bags	156 Parcel Bags
July	3933 Letter Bags	116 Parcel Bags
August	1254 Letter Bags	114 Parcel Bags
September	2971 Letter Bags	67 Parcel Bags
October	2469 Letter Bags	101 Parcel Bags
November	1809 Letter Bags	83 Parcel Bags
December	1760 Letter Bags	47 Parcel Bags
<b>Totals for 1917</b>	26973 Letter Bags	1942 Parcel Bags

Total of Stamps Sold in 1917 £5572 4/- 1 ½ d

Postal Orders Sold £301836 9/- 0d - Postal Orders Paid £36329 3/- 11d

War Saving Certificates £00.00

January 18	1501 Letter Bags	67 Parcel Bags
February	1888 Letter Bags	100 Parcel Bags
March	1457 Letter Bags	304 Parcel Bags
.....		
April	1190 Letter Bags	116 Parcel Bags
May	1394 Letter Bags	220 Parcel Bags
June	1406 Letter Bags	180 Parcel Bags
July	1357 Letter Bags	121 Parcel Bags

August	1245 Letter Bags	104 Parcel Bags
September	1198 Letter Bags	112 Parcel Bags
October	1094 Letter Bags	156 Parcel Bags
November	1043 Letter Bags	187 Parcel Bags
December	1445 Letter Bags	239 Parcel Bags
<b>Total for 1918</b>	<b>16218 Letter Bags</b>	<b>1908 Parcel Bags</b>

Total of Stamps Sold in 1918 £5757 11/- 10 ½ d

Postal Orders Sold £334744 12/- 6d - Postal Orders Paid £39772 1/- 00d  
War Saving Certificates £8073 3/- 6d

Note : From April, 1918 War Diary records UK and Mediterranean dispatches and dispatches for Egypt separately, figures shown above are total dispatches for the month. No details of a parcel service to Egypt from April 1918 are shown, parcel bags included in total bags dispatched?

**Total for 1919** (Note, Quarter Ends 29/3/19)

From 4<sup>th</sup> February 1919 Civilian Mails accepted in Constantinople

Total of Stamps Sold in 1919 £2103 9/- 5d  
Postal Orders Sold £129582 13 /- 0d - Postal Orders Paid £14637 13 /- 6d  
War Saving Certificates £4893 13 /- 6d

Summary of Total Sales

Total Stamps sold £18276 1/- 11 ½ d  
Postal Orders sold £921136 14 /- 6d - Postal Orders paid £162795 00 /- 8d  
War Saving Certificates sold £12968 17 /- 00d

Details of sales are extracted from Appendix E,  
British Salonika Force R.E. Postal Service Oct 1915 to March 1919, Summary

### **Total Dispatches**

**58258 Bags Letter Mails**

**6366 Bags Parcel Mails**

Appendix H gives details of the Offices open as shown below,

### **Number of Army and Field Post Offices – British - Excluding Base A.P.O.**

30 November 1915 .....	21
31 May 1916 .....	36
30 November 1916 .....	44
31 May 1917 .....	49
30 November 1917.....	41
31 May 1918 .....	54
31 March 1919 .....	33

## The Salonika Campaign – Registered Mail

### Summary of Correspondence

Office	Date	Code	Censor	No	2d Black	Piece	Censor Allocation
Base APOX	April 22 1916	B	3	4150	*		
Base APOX	09 December 1916	?	3	4135	*		
Base APOX	08 February 1917	A	3	2979?	*		
APO SX 1	08 November 1917	B	7	251	*		
APO SX 1	15 May 1918	B	7	103	*		28th General Hospital
APO SX 4	25 November 1917	B	7	386	*		983rd Area Employment Company
APO SX 4	30 December 1918	B	7	386	*		983rd Area Employment Company
		Vert					
APO SX 4	04 May 1918	+	7	418	*		
APO SX 4	18 March 1918	B	7	118	*		63rd General Hospital
APO SX 5	03 January 1917	B	3	2316	*		Unallocated
						* 2/-	
APO SX 12	17 February 1919	B	7	447		2d	
APO SX 13	24 August 1917	B	3	1497	*		
						* 1 /-	
APO SX 15	24 September 1916	A	7	122		8d	
FPO 30	20 May 1916	B	3	4007			30th Brigade Headquarters
FPO 31	17 February 1917	A	3	4017			5th Battn Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers
		Vert					
FPO 65	16 May 1918	+	7	5			3rd Battn Lancashire Fusiliers
		Vert					
FPO 66	22 February 1916	+	3	2067			13th Battalion Manchester Regiment
FPO 66	05 November 1916	A	3	2083	*		100th Field Company
FPO 66	28 November 1916	A	3	2083			100th Field Company
FPO 77	21 July 1916	A	3	2944			
		Vert					
FPO 78	15 February 1916	+	3	2226	*		11t Battn Worcestershire Regiment
FPO 79	03 April 1916	A	3	2232			7th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment
FPO 79	23 May 1916	B	3	2232	*		7th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment
FPO 80	27 May 1917	X	3	?????	*		
							1st Battn Argyll & Sutherland
FPO 81	01 June 1917	A	3	515?	*		Highlanders
FPO 81	14 June 1916	A	3	311	*		
FPO 81	11 July 1916	X	3	508			2nd Battalion Cameron Highlanders
FPO 82	15 March 1916	B	3	311			
FPO 82	13 November 1917	A	7	???	*		
FPO 83	18 December 1915	A	3	399	*		2nd Battalion East Yorks Regiment
FPO 84	19 January 1916	X	3	1033			85th Field Ambulance
FPO 84	23 January 1916	X	3	89			84th Brigade Headquarters
FPO 84	02 August 1917	A	3	1265	*		
FPO 85*	?? July 1918		3				
FPO 179	14 May 1917	X	3	4220	*		2/19th London Battalion
FPO 180X	04 March 2017	A	3	4220	*		2/19th London Battalion
FPO W 2	12 June 1918	A	7	390	*		
FPO D 22	24 April 1917	A	3	2016			22nd Division Headquarters
FPO D 26	13 September 1918	A	7	141	*		26th Division Headquarters



FPO D 28	30 October 1916	A	3	2769	*	28th Division Signal Co
FPO D 60	23 June 1917	None	3	2985	*	2/16th Battn London Regiment
FPO T 22	02 June 1917	A	3	513	*	2nd Battn Royal Irish Rifles
FPO T 22	12 April 1917	Vert +	3	4042	*	Base Censor ?
FPO T 22	13 April 1917	Vert +	3	2061	*	9th Battn East Lancs Regiment
FPO T 22	09 August 1917	+	3	2091	*	67th Field Ambulance
FPO T 27	01 June 1917	A	3	?????	*	
FPO T 27	24 October 1917	Vert +	7	61	*	
FPO T 28*	?? Nov 1917					
FPO T 28	14 May 1918	A	7	79	*	17th Field Co Royal Engineers
FPO H 12	11 December 1917	A	7	287		
FPO H 12	30 May 1918	B	7	83	*	483rd Company Royal Army Service Corps
FPO H 12	21 August 1918	A	7	349		
FPO GX	27 February 1918	None	7	305		Serbian Relief Fund Envelope
FPO GX	21 April 1918	None	7	305		To Switzerland Postage 4 1/2d
APO S 100	16 June 1918	Vert +	8	237	*	

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## The Salonika Campaign – Parcel Mails

As shown in the above tables 6366 Bags of Parcel Mails were dispatched from February 1916 to December 1918.

The War Diary also records that parcels could be sent inter unit within Salonika at the published parcel rates.

Survival rate of these parcel labels is very low and these labels are very scarce. Reasons for this are two-fold, wrapping paper was probably carefully removed, turned and re-used. If not reusable the wrapping would be discarded.

Parcel Label Cancelled FPO T 28 - 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1916.

This FPO served 28<sup>th</sup> Division Train located in the Lembet area, by June 1916 had moved to the Lahana area.

Paid 1 shilling which was the rate for a parcel up to 3 lb.



Dispatches were made on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May of Letter Mails & Parcel Bags, details unclear from War Diary Copy.

There was also an incoming service of parcels from home.

Detailed figures of monthly incoming parcels are shown in the War Diary, not collated yet but figures are much higher.

For many of the months recorded the monthly total of incoming parcels exceeds the final total of outgoing parcels.

Example : May 1916 – 10600 Parcel Bags received from Home Depot

No examples of incoming Parcel Labels are recorded.

Weight of dispatched Parcel Bags unknown.

There was a Military Freight Forwarding service in operation which was limited to a weight of 56 lbs.

## The Salonika Campaign – Parcel Mails

Parcel Label Cancelled FPO 29 - 30<sup>th</sup> March 1916

This Field Post Office served 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 10<sup>th</sup> Irish Division

Located at Stavros

Paid 2 /- 6d which was the rate for a parcel 7 lbs to 11 lbs



On the 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1916 “**LA PLATA**” departed for London with 75 Letter Bags and 18 Parcel Bags.

It’s more likely this parcel went on the next sailing which was the “**AUSTRALIAN**” which departed for London 5<sup>th</sup> April with 91 Letter Bags and 42 Parcel Bags. She also carried mails for APO 3 – 11 Letter and 3 Parcel Bags.

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## **The Salonika Campaign - The Canadian Question**

### **The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian General Hospitals in Salonika**

*“Among the first British troops to land were three Canadian Hospitals, No. 4 and No. 5 General, and No. 1 Stationary; the first from the University of Toronto, the second from Vancouver, and the third from Montreal and Quebec. These three units were privileged to render continuous service to the British forces in Macedonia for the first two years of the expedition. They cared for thousands of wounded and sick, and were recalled to England only after their personnel had been thinned out by malaria and dysentery. It was necessary to reorganize for service to the Canadian Corps on the Western Front”.*

In these words a medical student from the University of Toronto describes his experience in Salonika as a member of the 4th Canadian General Hospital. It was in February 1915 that the University offered to provide a general hospital with staff from its members – including undergraduates – and covering large part of the cost of its equipment. After a short period in England, the hospital moved in October 1915 to Salonika, west of the city first and from 25<sup>th</sup> May 1916 to Kalamaria, east of Salonika.

The Canadian hospitals were sent to Europe following an urgent request from the British Army Medical Services. However, the fact that three Canadian hospitals were sent to the Macedonian Front, an area with no Canadian troops, sparked a controversy in Canada. Following this debate the decision was taken to transfer the hospitals to the Western Front where Canadian troops were present. The three Canadian hospitals of the Macedonian Front left Salonika in the Summer of 1917. In the evacuated Kalamaria site four British hospitals were installed : the 43<sup>rd</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> General Hospitals planned for the reception of surgical cases and the 29<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> General Hospitals mostly for Greek sick and wounded to supplement the Greek hospitals. The 52<sup>nd</sup> hospital was then known for the treatment of malaria and had an annex of malaria wards.

Currently I record no Registered mail from the Canadian contingent who staffed these hospitals.

Postage was Free on Active Service for Canadian servicemen and women serving overseas.

However postage was applied to these soldiers letters as a Canadian Post Office accounting procedure upon arrival in Canada until July 1917.

I record non-registered mail showing postage applied on arrival, how Registered mail was treated is unknown.

Postage applied was 2 Cents.

#### Reference

W.J. Bailey & E.R. Toop The Canadian Military Posts Volume I, Colonial Period to 1919  
Edited by Edward. B. Proud.

## The Salonika Campaign - Canadian Mail

Cover to Mrs W.B. Hendry, Totonto, Canada.

Cancelled Army Post Office SX 4 – Code B - 7<sup>th</sup> March 1917

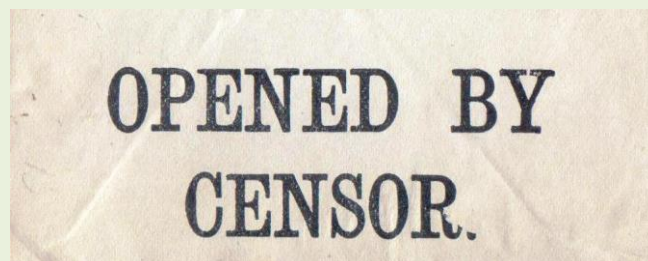
This Army Post Office was located at Kalamiaara serving the Hospitals located there.

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 4042 which was allocated to No 4 Canadian General Hospital. Signed by Major W.B. Hendry, 2<sup>nd</sup> in command and later Colonel and Officer in command of this Hospital.

The cover was received in Toronto on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1917. The 2 Cents Admiral Issue was applied by the Canadian Post Office for accountancy purposes.

Cancelled by a type 23-11 Flag receiver cancel.

The cover was opened and re-sealed by the censor as shown by the **OPENED BY CENSOR** Label, No 3419 This was in use throughout the Mediterranean Theatre.



## The Salonika Campaign - Canadian Mail

Field Service Post Card to Ontario, Canada and locally re-directed.

Cancelled Army Post Office SX 4 – Code A – 10<sup>th</sup> June 1916 - Received 4<sup>th</sup> July 1916

No additional stamps applied for accountancy purposes.



NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

I am quite well.

~~I have been admitted into hospital~~  
{ ~~wick~~ } ~~and am going on well.~~  
{ ~~wounded~~ } ~~and hope to be discharged soon.~~  
~~I am being sent down to the base.~~

I have received your letter dated May 7  
Telegram  
postcard "

Letter follows at first opportunity.

~~I have received no letter from you~~  
{ ~~Safety~~ }  
{ ~~some long time.~~ }

Signature only. Chlaugford

Date June 9/16.

[Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card.]

(92888) Wt. W3497-283 2,250m. 3/16 J. J. K. & Co., Ltd.

Sent by a member of the Hospital Staff.

These cards are not usually Censored by the Unit Hand-stamp.

No additional writing was allowed.



## The Salonika Campaign - Canadian Mail

Over-Seas Club Tobacco Fund "Thank you Card" sent to Phoenix, British Columbia, Canada

Cancelled Field Post Office 81 - 18<sup>th</sup> April 1916

This FPO served 81<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 27<sup>th</sup> Division located at Kapuzadlar, Near Salonika

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 515 Signed Gillispie

Allocated to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders.

Received in Montreal May 13<sup>th</sup> & Phoenix May 18<sup>th</sup>



Endorsed on reverse

*"A" Coy Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Salonika Forces*

*Dear Sir, Many thanks for the parcel of Smokes received, I remain Yours etc, Crawford Pte.*

19<sup>th</sup> April, 1916 "SANT ANNA" departed with the London Mails,  
20 Letter Bags, 2 Parcel Bags.

## The Salonika Campaign – Commercial Mail

Commercial cover to 136/7 Palmeston House, Old Broad St, London

Cancelled Base Army Post Office X – Code A - 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1918

Postage Paid 1 penny

Base Army Post Office X was located at No 1 Shed English Quay, Salonika Town

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 305

*Number unidentified by FD, This Hand-stamp I believe was used by the Chief or Base Censor.*

*Manuscript note on front of cover.*

*“The only one I have seen from Salonika with a 1 d stamp.”*



23<sup>rd</sup> January, 25 Letter Bags and 2 Parcel Bags dispatched on the Overland Route for London.

### The Salonika Campaign – Local Commercial Mail

Commercial cover from a Salonika Trading Company to Major Walker Craddock, 2<sup>nd</sup>/ 20<sup>th</sup> London Regiment, Salonika Forces.

This Battalion was part of 180<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 60<sup>th</sup> Division, Battalion was serving on the Dorian Front at this time.

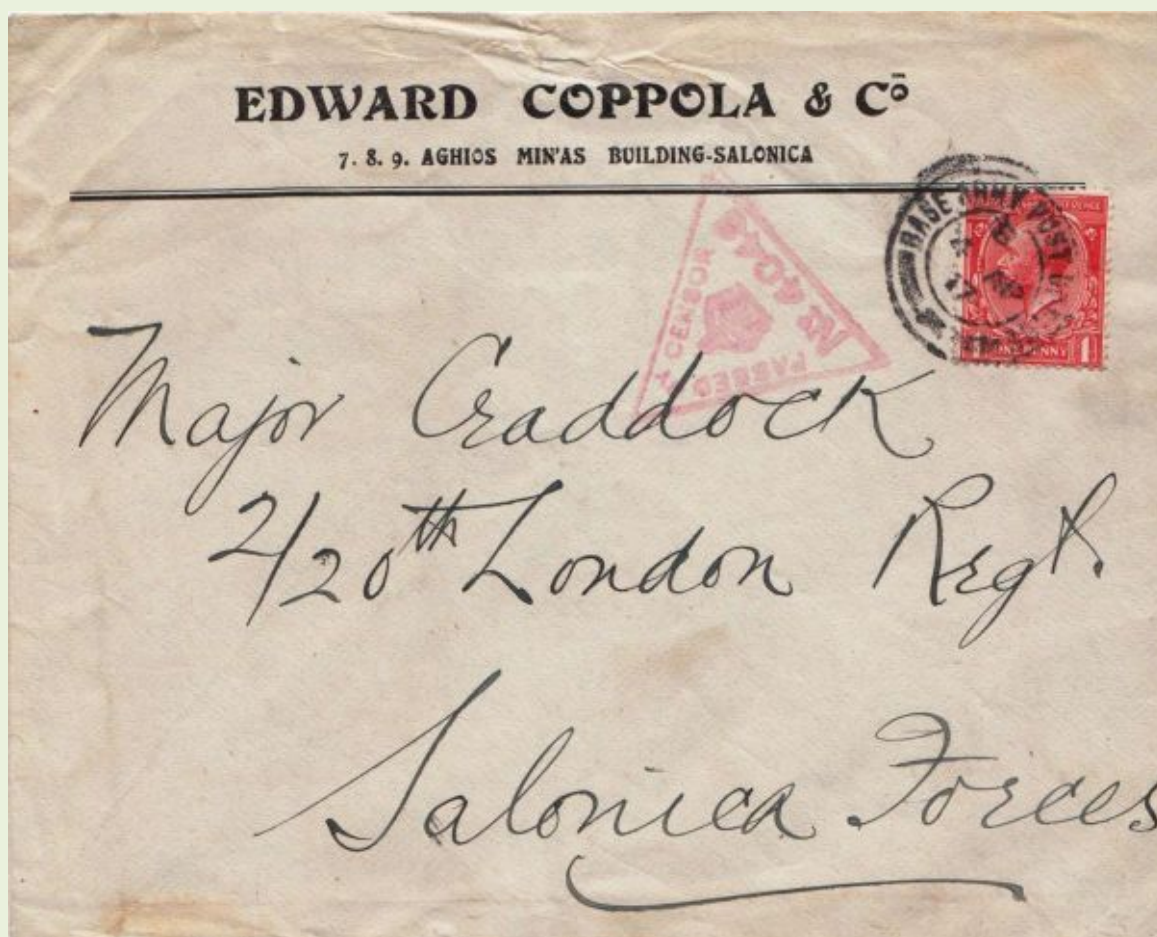
Cancelled Base Army Post Office X – Code B - 4<sup>th</sup> April 1917

Postage Paid 1 penny.

Censored at the Base APO with the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 4048

Base Army Post Office X was located at No 1 Shed English Quay, Salonika Town

This censor is recorded on mail from BAPO X, FPO GX, FPO T26 & FPO W2, allocation unknown.



War Diary records no specific details of the volume of such local mails.

Mail would have been sorted, bagged and dispatched by rail or lorry with the incoming English mails.



### The Salonika Campaign – Local Commercial Mail

Commercial cover from a Salonika Trading Company to Major Walker Craddock, 2<sup>nd</sup>/ 20<sup>th</sup>  
London Regiment, Salonika Forces.

Cancelled Base Army Post Office X – Code B – 7<sup>th</sup> February 1917

Postage Paid 1 penny

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 4048



Reverse of cover



These are the only examples I record of such local mails.

### **The Salonika Campaign – Taxed Mail**

Cover to San Francisco California. U S A

Cancelled Field Post Office 67 – Code A

28<sup>th</sup> December 1915

This FPO served 67<sup>th</sup> Brigade 22<sup>nd</sup> Division located at Grababor Near Salonika.

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 2017

Allocated to 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Welsh Regiment

Signed by the sender

There was no Free Postage to the United States of America and on arrival the cover was taxed 4 cents postage due as shown by the 2 x 2 cent postage due's applied.

No Back stamps or receiving cancels applied.

This FPO is recorded open here from 25<sup>th</sup> November 1915



22<sup>nd</sup> Division arrived in Salonika during November 1915

A report in the Chaplin's War Diary at this time described the Bay at Salonika as full of Naval Transports.

This War Diary is contained within the Folder containing the War Diary D.D.P.S Salonika.

## The Salonika Campaign – Taxed Mail

Cover to the United States of America.

Cancelled Field Post Office 81 – Code A – 20<sup>th</sup> June 1917

Censored by the Type 3 Hand stamp No 384 which was allocated to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Scots, signed Rogers.

FPO 81 was located at the Landing Office Stavros at this time.

Posted unpaid as on Active Service but postage of 1 penny was required for mail to the USA.

Hexagonal **T 20** Mark applied to denote Tax due.

Cover went via Base Army Post Office X, Salonika on the 21<sup>st</sup> June, 1917 where it was opened by the Base Censor and resealed by the label shown. Further censored 3/4516 at this time.

The cover arrived in New York 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 1917 where it was stamped **DUE 2 Cents** in circle.

Two 1 cent Postage Dues were applied to collect payment from the recipient.



Reverse of cover

25<sup>th</sup> June, 1917 was the first direct dispatch for London, “**PEIHO**” sailed with 218 Letter Bags and 26 Parcel Bags.



## The Salonika Campaign – Use of Greek Postal Stationery and Stamps

Greek 5 Lepra Stationery Card to the Rev C W G Wilson, Hayward's Heath, Sussex.

Cancelled with an unclear Army Post Office date stamp, probably APO SX 15

25<sup>th</sup> May 1918

Located at Mega Kara Burnu serving 82<sup>nd</sup> and 67<sup>th</sup> General Hospitals.

Card has been uprated with the addition of a 5 Lepra value.

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 455

Recorded from this APO and used by the staff of the 82<sup>nd</sup> General Hospital.

Signed by Censor.

*Message datelined 25/5/18*

*Writer talks about sea bathing and temperatures of 90 degrees in the shade. He was keeping very fit and busy. Says this card may be of interest to you.*



Dispatched on the Overland Route, a daily service via Taranto.

### The Salonika Campaign – Incoming Mail

Cover to Private E Taylor 30027 D Company 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Lances, Field Forces, Salonica.

Sent from the United States of America.

Cancelled M-----eld Massachusetts 5<sup>th</sup> July 1918 - Postage paid was 3 Cents

Endorsed *Hospital* in purple crayon. No receiving cancellations



Medal Card shows he is Private Edwin Taylor 30027 East Lancashire Regiment

Dispatches of Letter Mails from London were received daily via Itea on the Overland Route.

6097 Letter Bags and 606 Naval Bags received in July, 1918

Dispatch received on the 30<sup>th</sup> July was the dispatch from London of the 14<sup>th</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> July, a transit time of 15 days.

War Diary also records mails received back from the Field as shown below.

#### Hospital & R.L.O. Work

##### (a) Hospital

Week ended	Items received from Field	Entries on Cards
6 <sup>th</sup> July	67,930	15,554
13 <sup>th</sup> July	79,000	18,673
20 <sup>th</sup> July	70,350	15,443
27 <sup>th</sup> July	87,750	16,704

##### (b) R.L.O.

Week ended	Items received from Field	Items made "Dead"
6 <sup>th</sup> July	12,978	729
13 <sup>th</sup> July	12,530	729
20 <sup>th</sup> July	14,295	753
27 <sup>th</sup> July	12,660	730

Table taken from War Diary for July 1918, It's possible this item wasn't received until early August, 1918 dependant on sailings from the U.S.A. to London.

## The Salonika Campaign – Incoming Mail

Incoming Picture Post Card to Spr Bert Morley, Signals AHQ, Salonika,  
Re-directed to APO SX 4

Cancelled Single Ring Army Post Office? 26<sup>th</sup> December 1916 (Egypt)

Sent Free as sender was on Active Service

Received at Field Post Office GX 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1917  
This FPO was located at 76 Queen Olga Avenue Salonika serving GHQ

Censored by the Type 3 Hand-stamp No 3078  
*Not allocated by FD – Recorded with GM postmark*

Signed by Censor



*Reverse of Card*



Mails received from Alexandria

1<sup>st</sup> January, 1917 “NITONIAN” arrived with 74 Letter Bags from Alexandria and 27 Letter Bags from Port Said.



## The Salonika Campaign – Incoming Mail

Picture Post Card to Pte Charles Rolph - 641 84<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance

28<sup>th</sup> Division, Salonika Forces

Cancelled BARNES S.C.S.W. 10 am 4<sup>th</sup> April 1916

Postage paid 1 Penny

*Message reads*

*16 Thorne St Barnes SW*

*“Very many thanks for .....so pleased to hear you are well. I will write again RW.”*



*From Old England*

*Patriotic Flags Card*

## The Salonika Campaign – Incoming Mail

Picture Post Card to Private 367 F Pinichelli

Base Laboratory c/o D.M.S. Salonica Force  
(Director Medical Services)

Posted From Cape Town November 26<sup>th</sup> 1915?

Postage Paid 1 Penny

*Message reads - Nov 25<sup>th</sup>*

*“Dear Frank, Arrived here today & leaving tonight. Just had a march through the town & back. No time to see it properly but it is fine. Put C/o G.P.O. Bombay when writing, this should reach me quicker I am told. Goodbye & with very best wishes. Yrs very aff, Vin.”*

*Probably written by a soldier returning home to England from India and posted from a Troopship prior to sailing from Cape Town. (See below)*

Private Frank Panichelli 367 Royal Army Medical Corps

*Medal Card also shows him as Acting Corporal 510257 RAMC*



Card shows Cape Town – De Waal Park

*Possibly written by his Brother Vincent C Panichelli 125961 Corporal Royal Engineers.*

### The Salonika Campaign – Incoming Mail

Picture Post Card to Private H J Baxter S/4 157201 A.S.C.

L Mess, General Headquarters, Salonica Forces

“Endorsed Hospital” 28 – st, Further endorsement 50 General (*Hospital*)

Cancelled Harlow? 9<sup>th</sup> May 1918 - Postage paid 1 Penny

Received at Field Post Office GX 27<sup>th</sup> May 1918

This FPO Served GHQ located at the Greek Orphanage in Salonika



View Card of Harlow Parish Church

Private Harold J Baxter S4/157201 Royal Army Service Corps

Awarded the Victory & British Medals (*Ref Medal Cards*)

Survived the War



### The Salonika Campaign – Incoming Mail

Cover to Captain J Berkley Wodehouse 3<sup>rd</sup> Norfolk Regiment.

Intelligence Section, General Headquarters, Salonika

Cover was posted at Cirencester 13<sup>th</sup> August, 1917 Postage paid 1 Penny

Received at Field Post Office GX on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 1917

Cover has been re-directed C/O GSO (Naval) Mudros.

Endorsed "*Answer in detail - Keep.*"



## The Salonika Campaign – Incoming Mail

Cover to Lieutenant J.S. Arthur, 98<sup>th</sup> Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade

Royal Field Artillery, Salonika Army.

Posted at Banstead (Near Epsom Surrey) 29<sup>th</sup> October, Postage paid 1 Penny.

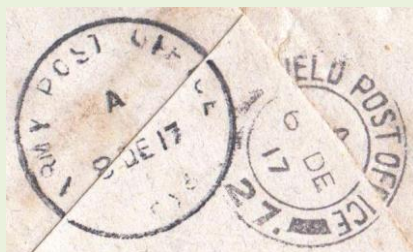
Received at Field Post Office T 27 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1917.

This FPO served 27<sup>th</sup> Divisional Train, Located on the Struma Valley Front.



Passed to Army Post Office SX 8 on the 8<sup>th</sup> December, 1917.  
This APO was located at Summerhill Camp serving the Infantry Base Depots.

Cover is endorsed "RF Egypt" and dated 20/12



## **The Salonika Campaign – Incoming Mail**

Cover from France addressed to Private Wm G Henderson (279266)

660 Company M.T. A.S.C. Salonika

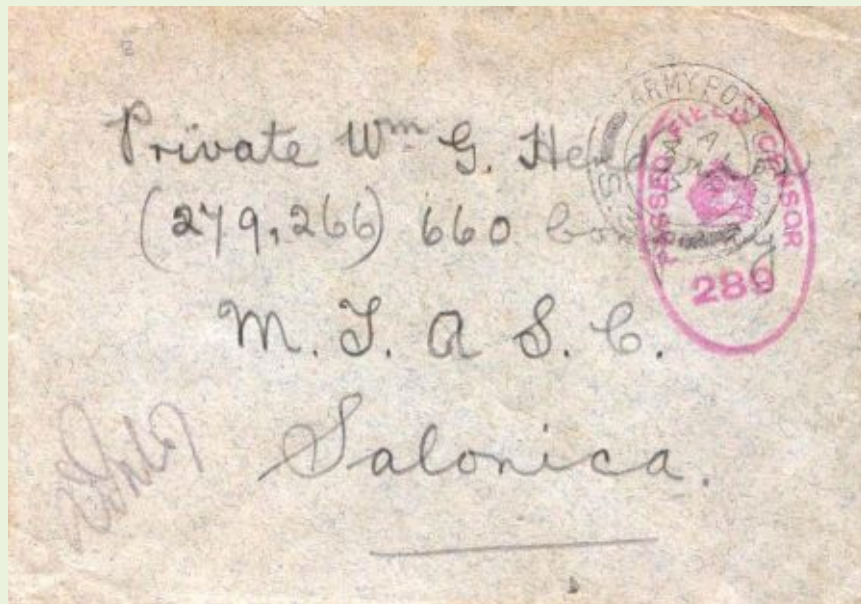
Cancelled Army Post Office S 34 – Code A – 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1917

This Army Post Office was located somewhere in France,

No location listed by Proud for 20<sup>th</sup> January 1917 – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1917

Sent Free as sender was on Active Service

Censored by the Type 5 Hand-stamp No 289



Army Career of William G Henderson

Scottish Horse 5724 Private

Royal Highlanders 629 Private

Army Service Corps M/279266 Private

Information taken from Medal Card.



### The Salonika Campaign – Incoming Mail

Cover to Lt H G Thornton, Royal Flying Corps. Addressed to him at El Obeid, Sudan.  
Posted from Northampton on the 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1916, Postage paid was 1 Penny.

Received in Sudan 8<sup>th</sup> August, 1916. Censored on arrival in Sudan as shown by the triangular  
**PASSED CENSOR / 9 / SUDAN** Hand-stamp.

Re-directed to Cairo, Endorsed "*Unknown at Flying Corps Heliopolis*" and forwarded to 12<sup>th</sup>  
Corps, Kireg, and C/O 17 Squadron, BEF Salonika.

Cancelled Army Post Office S Z 4 which was located at Ismalia, Egypt, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> August,  
Received at Army Post Office S X 4 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1916 which was located at Kalamaria,  
Salonika.

Lt Thornton served in the Northamptonshire Regiment prior to transferring to the Royal  
Flying Corps.



Reverse of cover reduced

1<sup>st</sup> September, 1916 "**ISMAILIA**" arrived with 102 Letter Bags from Alexandria and 1 Letter  
Bag from Port Said, Included 4 Bags for Mudros, 6 Bags for Malta and 3 Special Bags.

2<sup>nd</sup> September, "**ARAGON**" arrived with 23 Letter Bags from Alexandria and 43 Letter Bags  
from Port Said.

## The Salonika Campaign – Incoming Mail

Cover to Sergeant G.E. Wellington, 1092 Royal Army Medical Corps,

C/O Army P.O. S X 1, Salonica Exp Force, Greece.

Posted unpaid from Bromley, Kent 12<sup>th</sup> February, 1918

Received at Army Post Office S X 1 6<sup>th</sup> March, 1918

Endorsed "*Insufficiently Addressed Not Known APO S X 1 6/3/18*"

Boxed Hand-stamp **UNABLE TO TRACE A.P.O. X.** (K & C SMC 1 Issued 6-1-16)

Boxed Hand-stamped on reverse of cover

**PRESENT LOCATION UNCERTAIN RLS LPS GPO**



Reverse of Cover



Hand-stamp applied in London

### The Salonika Campaign – Incoming Mail

Cover to Private Fred Hallam, No 23635, D Company, 16 Platoon, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Lancashire Regiment, British Salonika Forces, Salonica  
Posted at Haslingden, Manchester, 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 1918. Postage paid was 1 Penny.

Received at Field Post Office 65 on the 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1918.

This FPO served 65<sup>th</sup> Brigade 22<sup>nd</sup> Division located on the Doiran Front.

Received at Base Army Post Office X, Returned Letter Office on the 27<sup>th</sup> January, 1918

Cover was then sent to Malta as shown by the Army Post Office H.D. 1 cancel 13<sup>th</sup> February 1918. This APO was located in Valetta, Malta, February 1917 to December, 1919

Cover is endorsed “Hospital & England”

Many casualties from the Salonika campaign were sent to Hospital in Malta.



Reverse of cover – The APO X RLO cancel is scarce. Boxed cachet applied in London.



27<sup>th</sup> January Dispatch on the Taranto Route included 3 Letter Bags for Malta, a further 7 Letter Bags were dispatched on the 28<sup>th</sup> on the same route.



## **The Salonika Campaign – Incoming Mail – Royal Air Force**

Cover to an Airman in 14 Squadron in Salonika

1 A/M Peacock R D 5<sup>th</sup> Wing (14<sup>th</sup> Squadron) R.A.F. Salonika Expeditionary Force

Cancelled Base Army Post Office K – Code B

26<sup>th</sup> November 1918

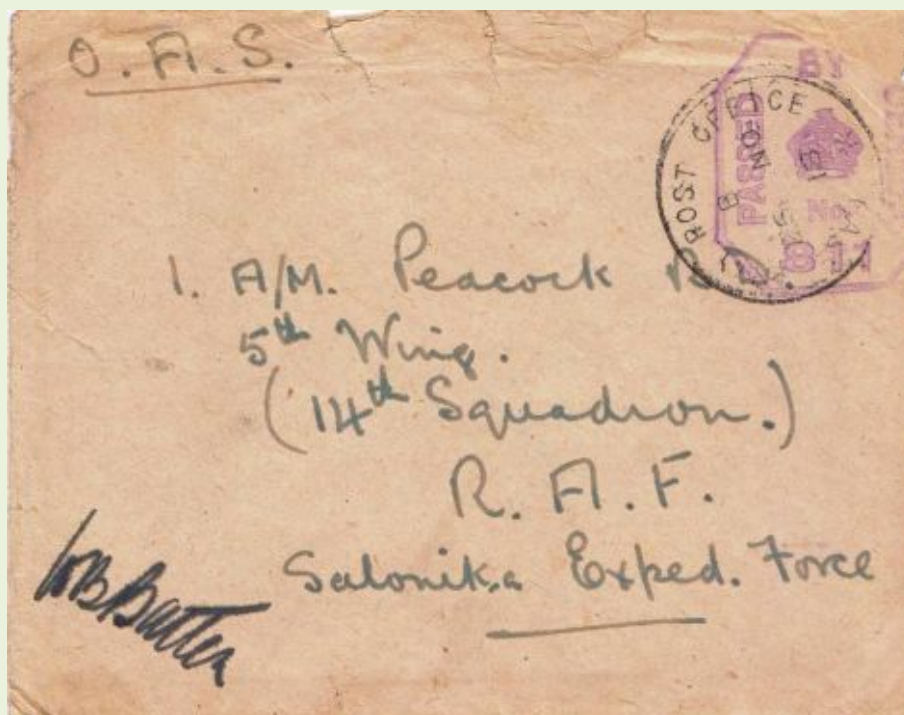
This Base APO was located to Kantara in Egypt

Censored by the Type 7 Hand-stamp No 811

*Number unidentified by FD*

*Signed by Censor W B Batten – Captain in Labour Corps / Lancashire Fusiliers?*

14 Squadron arrived in Egypt in November 1915 and served on the Western Frontier, Sinai and Palestine. On 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1918 it sailed for Salonika and in January 1919 sailed from there for disbanding at Tangmere.



*No Back-stamps*

30<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 “MATINA” arrived from Port Said with 54 Bags

There were 10 arrivals during November, 1918 with a total of 181 Bags from Port Said

## The Salonika Campaign – Incoming Mail

Cover to Driver A. Joyce, 244<sup>th</sup> Company, Army Service Corps.  
29<sup>th</sup> Divisional Supply Column, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Posted at Litchfield 18<sup>th</sup> November, 1915, Postage paid was 1d.

Received at Army Post Office S X 1 on the 21<sup>st</sup> December, 1915

This APO was located at Monastair Road, Salonika and opened on the 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1915

Cover is endorsed “*Hospital*” in Blue, “England” in **Green** and signed A H White 21/12/15

Returned to the UK as shown by the **RETURNED LETTER BRANCH BIRMINGHAM**  
Hand-stamp

The Number M 034769 is probably a RLO Record Number  
2



Back-stamps

Medal Record Cards show two possible identifications,  
Joyce, Edward A, No S / 7094 and Joyce, Ernest A, S4 199260 who both served in the Army  
Service Corps.

## The Salonika Campaign – Incoming Mail

A well-travelled cover to Corporal F C Stone, 8925 D Company,  
Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 10<sup>th</sup> Division British Central Expeditionary Force

Indistinct cancel Harwich? 18<sup>th</sup>? December 1915 - Postage paid 1d

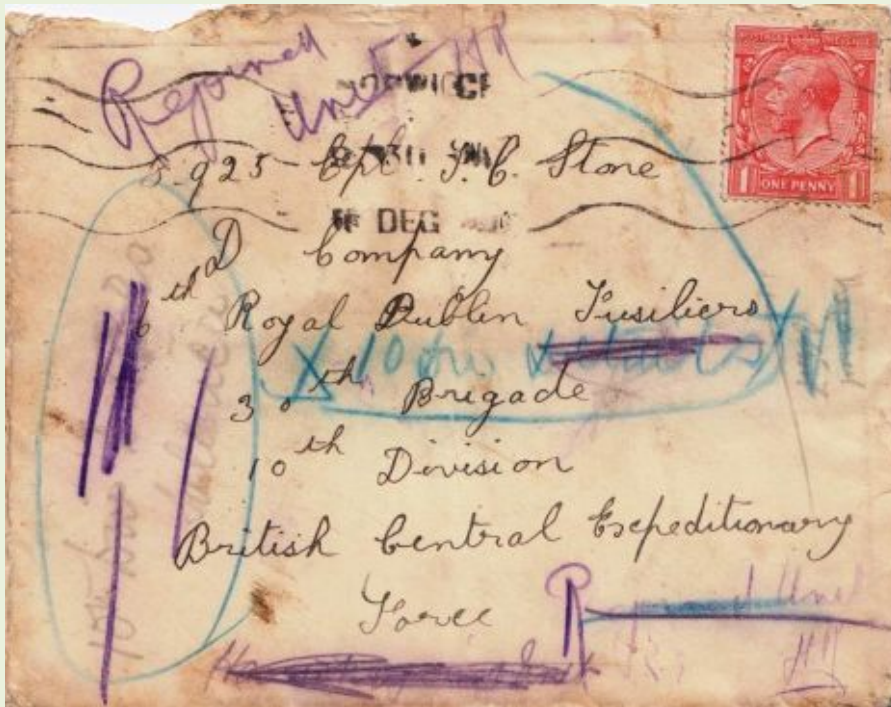
Cover shows various manuscript endorsements

Hospital – 10<sup>th</sup> Div Hospital – Re-joined Unit etc

Back-stamped Army Post Office A 14<sup>th</sup> Jan, 16 – FPO 30 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, 16

APO SX 4 29<sup>th</sup> Jan, 16 – FPO 30 29<sup>th</sup> Jan, 16

*Endorsed on reverse in manuscript Re-joined Unit 25-1-16 FJ*



Medal Card shows

Franck C Stone 8925 Private Norfolk Regiment 27782 Private 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

This suggests he was transferred to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and then re-joined the Norfolk Regiment at some stage. He survived the war



*Back-stamps*

Field Post office 30 served 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade located at Langavuk Nr Salonika 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 16 – 25<sup>th</sup> March 1916. Army Post Office SX 4 was located at Kalamaria serving the Hospitals concentrated there.

Army Post Office A was probably located in Salonika, in use January 1916 only. A very scarce cancel.



## The Salonika Campaign – Incoming Mail

Cover to Corporal S G Bowden, No 05844 (Correct No 05849)  
124<sup>th</sup> A.S.C. B.M.E. Salonica

Cancelled Newton Abbot? ? June 1918 Postage Paid 1d

Various manuscript endorsements “Deceased” “Stavros,” “Not 123<sup>rd</sup> Coy,” “Deceased 14.7.18”

Received at FPO 85 15<sup>th</sup> July, 1918, two further unclear cancels 18<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> July  
Further cancelled APO S X 7 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1918, This APO was located at Stavros.

Finally Cancelled A.O.C. Records 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 Woolwich

Corporal Sidney George Bowden No 05849, 124<sup>th</sup> Company Army Ordnance Corps attached Stavros Ammunition Depot is recorded as “Drowned” 14<sup>th</sup> July, 1918 at Stavros.

Buried in Mikra Cemetery, Kalamaria Greece



*Back-stamps*

## References.

1. Kennedy & Crabb : *The Postal History of the British Army in WW1*
2. John Firebrace : *Campaigns & Occupations in the Near East, 1914-1924 A Postal history*
3. E B Proud : *History of the British Army Postal Service Vol 11*
4. *War Diary of the D.D.P.S Salonika Held at Kew* WO 95 / 4789
5. Hoggarth & Gwynn : *Maritime Disaster Mail*
6. F.W. Daniel : *The Field Censor Systems of the armies of the British Empire 1914 – 1918 Unit Allocations*